

## Lauren Beversluis

Doctoral Candidate in History of Christianity, The University of Chicago

Director of Development, Calvert House

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## EDUCATION

Research interests: In early Christianity and late antiquity—visual and material culture; comparative religions; biblical exegesis (textual and visual); funerary culture & cults of the saints; rhetoric of martyrdom; storytelling and the “rise of Christianity”; cultural and religious reception of St. Peter

**Ph.D. University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago IL:** History of Christianity (expected 2027)

Dissertation title: “Living Stone: The Paradox of Peter in Early Christian Art at Rome”

*Chair:* Willemien Otten

*Committee Members:* Robin Jensen, Jaś Elsner

*Examiners:* Margaret Mitchell, Karin Krause, Willemien Otten, and Rachel Fulton Brown

- Comprehensive examinations (Spring 2023)
  - Exam paper: “An Inauspicious Voice, a Defeated Silence: Contextualizing Peter’s Gesture in the Rooster-Scene of Late Antiquity”
  - History of Christianity 1: Ancient Christianity to 600 CE (Martyrdom narratives & the “rise of Christianity”; material evidence for social structures in the cult of the saints)
  - History of Christianity 5: Byzantine Christianity and Visual Culture (Viewing violence and death; relic culture; scriptural typology & sacramental sacrifice)
  - Theology 1: History of Christian Thought, Ancient and Medieval (St. Augustine’s theory of exegesis; 12<sup>th</sup> century mysticism & the “order of charity”)
  - History of Comparative Exegesis (Gregory the Great’s senses of Scripture in *Moralia in Job*; the *totus Christus* in monastic exegesis of the Psalms)

**M.A. University of Chicago Divinity School, (Chicago IL):** Religion - History of Christianity, 2019

*Advisor:* Willemien Otten

**B.A. Yale University, (New Haven CT):** Political Science – Political Philosophy, 2016 (*with distinction*)

*Advisor:* Bryan Garsten

- Study abroad semester at the University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa (Fall 2014)
- Summer study abroad at the Yale Summer Language Institute in Siena, Italy (Summer 2013)

## PUBLICATIONS

- “Peter’s Preaching and the Day of the Lord: Acts: 2:14-42,” *The Visual Commentary on Scripture* (forthcoming)
- [Review of Ponce Pilate: La construction d’une figure dans la littérature patristique et apocryphe](#), by Anne-Catherine Baudoin, *The Journal of Religion* (March 2026)
- [Review of Temptation Transformed: The Story of How the Forbidden Fruit Became an Apple](#), by Azzan Yadin-Israel, *Journal of Religion* (July 2024)
- [“Stranger on the Shore: John 21:1-14,”](#) *The Visual Commentary on Scripture* (2024)
- [“The Song of Deborah,”](#) *The Visual Commentary on Scripture* (December 2022)
- [“The Sign of Jonah,”](#) *The Visual Commentary on Scripture* (October 2020)
- [“The Contemporary Question of Images and Early Christian Art,”](#) *Church Life Journal*, McGrath Institute for Church Life, University of Notre Dame (October 2018)

## PRESENTATIONS & LECTURES

- “The Earliest Christian art at Dura Europos,” Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven CT (May 2026)
- “*Imago Dei*: Sacred Art and Devotion in the Middle Ages,” Calvert House Catholic Center, Chicago IL (March 2025)
- “Peter Silenced in the Christian Cockfight: The Origins of Peter’s Denial Iconography,” Early Christian Studies Workshop, University of Chicago Divinity School, (February 2025)
- “Prefacing the Passion in Early Christian Art,” Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago IL (July 2024)
- “Peter in the Round: The Petrine Cycle as a Narrative (Anti-)Portrait,” *Portraiture and Its Limitations: Premodern Europe and Beyond*, University of Vienna symposium, Vienna, Austria (December 2023)
- “Spectacle or Sacrifice? Depicting the Martyr-Saints in Early Christian Art,” *The 48<sup>th</sup> Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies* conference, Villanova University, Villanova PA (October 2023)
- “Martyrdom and Communion in the San Vitale Mosaics,” *Early Christian Studies* conference, University of Notre Dame, South Bend IN (May 2022)
- “What Does the Imitation of Christ Look Like? Defeating Disgrace, Dragons, and Darkness at the Art Institute of Chicago,” Loyola University, Chicago IL (November 2021)
- “Jonah and the Vine: The *Refrigerium Interim* in Early Christian Funerary Iconography,” *Early Christian Studies Workshop*, University of Chicago Divinity School, (remote) (October 2021)
- “Turn Your Gaze Away from Me’: Peter’s Denial and Repentance in Early Christian Art,” *The 46<sup>th</sup> Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies* conference, Villanova University, Villanova PA (October 2021)
- “The *Hodegetria* and the Lukan Legend: A Scriptural Portrait,” *Portraiture in Visual and Literary Culture (Ancient to Medieval)* symposium, the University of Chicago and the University of Vienna, Chicago IL (October 2021)
- “Unfiltered: Engaging Art with Humor and Charity at the Art Institute of Chicago,” Lumen Christi Institute & Ozarks Christian Academy, Chicago IL (June 2021)
- “The Mountain and the Mediator: Christian Pilgrimage in Light of the Transfiguration,” *International Congress on Medieval Studies*, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo MI (May 2020, cancelled due to COVID-19)
- “The Nativity at the Art Institute of Chicago,” Sheil Catholic Center at Northwestern University, Chicago IL (November 2019)
- “Mary at the Art Institute of Chicago,” Lumen Christi Institute, Chicago IL (May 2019)

## **Panel Chairing**

- “Faith, Light, Logos: Christian Thought in the Second Century,” *The 48<sup>th</sup> Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies* conference, Villanova University, Villanova PA (October 2023)
- “Visions of Birth and New Life in Art,” *The 46<sup>th</sup> Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies Conference*, Villanova University, Villanova PA (October 2021)
- “The Cross: History, Art, and Controversy,” book symposium with Professor Robin Jensen, the Lumen Christi Institute, Chicago IL (May 2019)

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Instructorship**

- “Art as Biblical Interpretation,” instructor-designed course in Religious Studies, University of Chicago, Chicago IL (Fall 2025)
  - Instructed an undergraduate seminar with thirteen students
  - Organized and led five weekend field trips to churches and museums around Chicago

### **Teaching Assistantships**

- “Christian Iconography,” with Professor Karin Krause, University of Chicago, Chicago IL (Winter 2021)
- “Tolkien: Medieval and Modern,” with Professor Rachel Fulton Brown, University of Chicago, Chicago IL (Spring 2020)
- “Foundations in Science and Religion,” with the McGrath Institute for Church Life, University of Notre Dame (remote) (Spring 2019)

### **High School Seminars**

- “Creation: Artistic and Divine,” Newman Forum, Lumen Christi Institute, Chicago IL (February 2020)
- “The Making of a Modern Saint: John Henry Newman on Faith and Education in a Secular Age,” Newman Forum, Lumen Christi Institute, Chicago IL (October 2019)

### **Tutoring & Mentoring**

- Mentored international graduate school applicants in writing and admissions, ZLR Valeon (remote) (2019-2021)
- Designed courses and tutored Reading Comprehension and SAT Writing, WBG Internationals (remote) (2013-2015)

### **Pedagogy Training**

- Course Design and College Teaching program (Fall 2023)
  - Designed sample syllabi and assignments
  - Developed classroom strategies for addressing diverse learning needs and goals
- Teaching@UChicago workshop (Fall 2023)

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

### **Independent Studies**

University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago IL

- Directed Study, “Illuminating the Bible in Byzantium,” with Professor Karin Krause (Spring 2021)
  - Studied Byzantine manuscripts and facsimiles in University of Chicago’s Special Collections
- Reading Course, “The Psalms and their Exegesis,” with Professor Rachel Fulton Brown (Winter 2021)

- Reading Course, “*Opus Caroli regis* in Context,” with Professor Willemien Otten (Spring 2020)
- Independent Study “Early Christian Funerary Art,” supervised by Willemien Otten (Winter 2020)
  - Independently and with Professors Michael Allen and Richard Westall explored catacombs, churches, monasteries, & museums in Rome, Ravenna, Milan, Naples, & Cimitile, Italy
  - Studied funerary art and culture; wrote research paper on Jonah and the *refrigerium interim*
  - Developed database of inscriptions and photos of early Christian art and artefacts

### **Research Assistantships**

University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago IL

- *Research Assistant* to Professor Karin Krause (2020-22)
  - Edited manuscript and compiled index of *Divine Inspiration in Byzantium: Notions of Authenticity in Art and Theology*, by Karin Krause (Cambridge University Press: 2022)
- *Research Assistant* to Professor Willemien Otten (Fall 2019)
  - Compiled index for *Thinking Nature and the Nature of Thinking: From Eriugena to Emerson*, by Willemien Otten (Stanford University Press: 2020)

University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IL (remote)

- *Research Assistant* to Professor Robin Jensen (Summer 2021)
  - Conducted research for *Baptisteries in the Early Christian World: Catalog and Digital Database*, co-editors Robin Jensen, Nathan Dennis, Nathan Chase (Brill: forthcoming)

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (remote)

- *Research Assistant* to Professor Katherine Hindley (Summer 2021)
  - Edited translations of medieval Latin charms for *Textual Magic: Charms and Written Amulets in Medieval England*, by Katherine Hindley (The University of Chicago Press: 2023)

### **FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS**

University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago IL

- Doctoral study fellowship (2019-27)
- Alma Wilson Teaching Fellowship (2025-26)
- Master of Arts majority tuition scholarship (2017-19)

Leonine Forum of Catholic Leaders, Chicago IL

- Leonine Fellow (2025-26)

The Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage, Loyola University, Chicago, IL

- Hank Fellowship in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition for dissertation research in Rome, Italy and Arles, France (Summer 2024)

Lumen Christi Institute, Chicago IL

- “Vocation of the Catholic Scholar,” graduate seminar fellowship, Chicago IL (Summer 2025)
- “Early Christian Old Testament Exegesis,” graduate seminar fellowship, Sheptytsky Institute, Toronto, ON (Summer 2024)
- “Irenaeus of Lyons’ *Adversus Haereses*: Foundations of Early Christian Theology,” graduate seminar fellowship (Summer 2021)
- “Truth and Authority in St. Augustine’s *City of God*,” graduate seminar fellowship, Berkeley CA (Summer 2018)

FAU-Nuremberg SCRIPTO Summer School, Nuremberg, Germany

- “Medieval Book Illumination” graduate seminar fellowship (Spring 2022)

Junius Johnson Academics (remote)

- *Sub Arboribus* Advanced Latin program scholarship (Summer 2021)

Ossa Latinitatus Sola: The Mere Bones of Latin, Wauwatosa WI

- Rev. Reginald Foster’s Latin language program fellowship (2016-17)

Hertog Foundation, Washington DC

- Political Studies Program fellowship (Summer 2016)

Yale University, New Haven CT

- Yale College full tuition scholarship (2012-16)
- Calhoun College Richter Fellowship for independent study (Summer 2015)
- Semester study abroad scholarship, Cape Town, South Africa (Fall 2014)
- Summer Language Institute fellowship, Siena, Italy (Summer 2013)

## Grants

University of Chicago, Chicago IL

- Divinity School Excellence in Teaching Award (Spring 2026)
- Chicago Studies grant for teaching (Fall 2025)
- Divinity School - University of Vienna conference travel coverage (Fall 2023)
- Graduate Council individual stipend for PMR conference presentation (Fall 2023)
- Graduate Council personal development grant (Spring 2022)
- Divinity Students Association language study grant (Summer 2021)
- Perrin Grant for conference travel (Fall 2021)
- Divinity Students Association conference travel grant (Fall 2021)

Institute for Humane Studies graduate school applications grant (2017)

## RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Calvert House Catholic Center (September 2024 - present)

- *Director of Development*
  - Organize events and programming
    - “Praying the Psalms with Athanasius and the *Letter to Marcellinus*,” with Emily Barnum and the Holy Name Cathedral (January 2025)
    - “*Imago Dei*: Sacred Art and Devotion in the Middle Ages,” with Aidan Valente at the Art Institute of Chicago (March 2025)
    - “From Inspiration to Illumination: An Experience of the Saint John’s Bible,” with Director Tim Ternes (April 2025)
    - Calvert House Alumni & Friends Dinner featuring Prof. Bernard McGinn (May 2025)
  - Manage communications including the newsletter, marketing, and social media
  - Major gifts and annual fundraising efforts
  - Principles & Techniques of Fundraising Certificate, Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy

Lumen Christi Institute, Chicago IL (2018-20)

- *Program Coordinator*
  - Assisted with programming, organizing and staffing events, and maintaining outreach network
  - Helped to organize and lead the Newman Forum for high school students (2020)

- Proposed and organized the book symposium, “The Cross: History, Art, and Controversy” with Professor Robin Jensen (May 2019)
- Proposed and organized lectures at the Art Institute of Chicago (2019)
- Coordinated summer seminars (Summer 2018)

University of Chicago Dissertation Office, Chicago IL (2017-18)

- *Administrative Assistant*

School Sisters of Notre Dame, Elm Grove WI (2016-17)

- *Administrative Assistant*

Yale MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, New Haven CT (2015-16)

- *Research Assistant to the Deputy Director*

Yale Greenberg Conference Center, New Haven CT (2012-14)

- *Administrative Assistant*

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Early Christian Studies Workshop, UChicago Divinity School

Calvert House Catholic Center

Loyola Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Tradition

Lumen Christi Institute

Leonine Forum

The Visual Commentary on Scripture Foundation

International Catacomb Society

The Medieval Academy of America

North American Patristics Society

Young Catholic Professionals

The American Society of Church History

## **LANGUAGES**

French – Advanced proficiency

Italian – Advanced proficiency

Latin – Advanced proficiency

Greek – Medium proficiency

German – Basic proficiency

Spanish – Basic proficiency

## **REFERENCES**

Willemien Otten

Dorothy Grant Maclear Professor of Theology and the History of Christianity

University of Chicago Divinity School

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Robin Jensen

Patrick O'Brien Professor of Theology

University of Notre Dame

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Jaś Elsner

Visiting Professor of Art and Religion in the Divinity School and Art History

University of Chicago

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Bernard McGinn

Naomi Shenstone Donnelley Professor Emeritus of Historical Theology and of the History of Christianity

University of Chicago Divinity School and the Committees on Medieval Studies and on General Studies

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Rachel Fulton Brown

Associate Professor of Medieval History, Fundamentals, and the College

University of Chicago

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Rev. Andrew Summerson

Assistant Professor of Greek Patristics

Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies, University of Toronto, Canada

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Rev. Gabriel Torretta, O.P.

Assistant Professor of Theology

Providence College

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Erin Galgay Walsh

Assistant Professor of New Testament and Early Christian Literature

University of Chicago Divinity School

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Associate Professor of Classics and the College

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[pvarmenio@gmail.com](mailto:pvarmenio@gmail.com)

Rev. Patrick Baikauskas  
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