

## Yii-Jan Lin

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### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2020- Associate Professor of New Testament, Yale Divinity School  
2016-2020 Assistant Professor of New Testament, Yale Divinity School  
2014-16 Assistant Professor of New Testament, Pacific School of Religion  
Biblical Studies Faculty, Graduate Theological Union  
2013-14 Visiting Instructor of New Testament, Pacific School of Religion

### EDUCATION

- 2014 PhD Yale University, Religious Studies, New Testament  
2005 MA Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, New Testament, *summa cum laude*  
2000 MA University of Chicago, English Literature  
1999 BA Pomona College, English Literature

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Monographs

- 2026 *The Text that Dwells Among Us: The Life of the New Testament*, forthcoming, under contract, Eerdmans
- 2024 *Immigration and Apocalypse: How the Book of Revelation Shaped American Immigration*, Yale University Press. Pp. 296.  
- [\*Times Literary Supplement\*](#): “Lin argues persuasively that American political discourse since colonial times has been undergirded by the ‘New Jerusalem metaphor’ - the foundational myth that America mirrors the heavenly city.”—*Times Literary Supplement*  
- [\*Sojourners\*](#): “*Immigration and Apocalypse* is a powerful book that demonstrates why biblical scholarship has an important role to play in unpacking contemporary cultural discourses.”  
- [\*Pasts Imperfect\*](#): by Steven J. Friesen 2.20.25: “Academia needs studies like this that raise suppressed questions if we are to understand better the ancient texts, their histories of usefulness, our academic disciplines, and our contemporary societal struggles.”  
Named one of “Fifteen Important Theology Books of 2024” by *Englewood Review of Books*
- 2016 *The Erotic Life of Manuscripts: New Testament Textual Criticism and the Biological Sciences*, Oxford University Press. Pp. xi + 203.  
- *Review of Biblical Literature* 11.1.2018 and 4.1.2023: “...exceptionally significant...Lin’s book represents a sweeping argument that embodies all the features of a strong thesis: rare originality of thinking, a skillfully executed challenge to an

established disciplinary paradigm, close engagement of a hitherto unrelated academic discourse, breaking of new theoretical ground, and, perhaps most importantly, the creation of space for fresh thinking.”

- *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 85 (2017): 266-9

- *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 10.25.2016

- *Quarterly Review of Biology* 91 (2016): 494-5: “[Lin] has degrees in literature and religious studies but has learned her biological systematics very well and makes cladistics comprehensible to humanists rather better than many of us do in introductory biology classes.”

## Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2026 “‘Here Be Dragons’: Reading the Historical Jesus with Qu Yuan,” in press with *Journal for the Study of the Historical Jesus*
- 2026 “The Bad Bible and the Segregation of Biblical Studies,” with Matthew V. Novenson, in press with *New Testament Studies*
- 2022 “Our Cloud of Witnesses: A Writing of Hebrews 11:1-12:2 In Memory of the Asian and Asian American Women Killed March 16, 2021,” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 141(4): 761-783
- 2020 “The Multivalence of the Ethiopian Eunuch and Acts 8:37,” for *TC: A Journal of Biblical Textual Criticism* 25 (2020): 103-110
- 2020 “Musical Performance Practice and New Testament Textual Criticism: A Proposal for Creative Philology,” *Early Christianity* 11(1): 71-93
- 2020 “Junia: An Apostle before Paul,” *Journal of Biblical Literature*, 139(1): 191-209
- 2007 “Semen, Philosophy, and Paul,” *Journal of Philosophy and Scripture*, 4(2): 32-45

## Book Chapters

- 2026 “The New Testament and Cultural and Comparative Studies,” in *The New Testament and the Humanities*, eds. Michael Peppard and Matthew V. Novenson, Cambridge University Press, in press.
- 2026 “Genetics, Molecular Discourse, and Performance: The New Testament as an Ontological Individual” in *Philology’s Prism: Histories, Politics, and Futures for Textual Scholarship*, eds. Jeremiah Coogan, Paul Michael Kurtz, and Pranav Prakash, in press.
- 2026 “Journey to the Self: The Asian Theological Institute’s Transformation of the Academic Self,” in *Communal Generations: Building Asian American Theological Traditions*, ed. Tat-siong Benny Liew, Palgrave Macmillan, in press.

- 2024 “Of Escoffier, *Gastronomie*, Craft, and Canon,” *Reading in These Times: Purposes and Practices of Minoritized Biblical Criticism*, eds. Tat-siong Benny Liew and Fernando Segovia, SBL Press, 169-188
- 2023 “Reading across the Archives: Mining the Beatty Narrative,” *The Chester Beatty Papyri at Ninety: Literature, Papyrology, Ethics*, eds. Garrick Vernon Allen, Usama Ali Mohamed Gad, Kelsie Gayle Rodenbiker, Anthony Philip Roye, and Jill Unkel, *Manuscripta Biblica* series, de Gruyter, 83-96
- 2023 “Apocalyptic Disease and the Ethnic Other in American History,” *Divided Worlds?* eds. Timothy Joseph, Caroline Johnson Hodge, and Tat-siong Benny Liew, Semeia Studies, SBL Press, 83-104
- 2019 “Who Is the Text? The Gendered and Racialized New Testament,” *The Oxford Handbook of New Testament, Gender, and Sexuality*, ed. Benjamin Dunning, Oxford University Press, 137-56
- 2018 “Certeau and the Two Ways: Digital Dissolution and the Demands of Power in Biblical Studies,” *Present and Future of Biblical Studies*, ed. Tat-siong Benny Liew, Brill, 112-32
- 2014 “Male-Female Sexuality: New Testament,” *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Gender Studies*, eds. Davina Lopez and Todd Penner, Oxford University Press, 463-8

#### **SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AWARDS**

- 2026-7 Griswold Faculty Research Grant, Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University
- 2025-6 Whitney Humanities Center Fellow
- 2024-5 Public Voices Fellow of Yale and the OpEd Project
- 2024 Project Grant for “Religion and Immigration: Teaching and Learning Experientially,” from Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning
- 2024 Course enrichment funding from Yale Center for Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration and Yale Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning for the course REL 522/AMST 632 “American Immigration and Apocalypse”
- 2022-23 Fellowship for “Scripture in a Crowd: Learning through Embodied, Communal Annotation in a Large Lecture Course” from Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning
- 2018-22 Research Fellow of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft Centre for Advanced Studies, “Beyond the Canon: Heterotopias of Religious Authority in Late Antique Christianity,” Universität Regensburg, Germany

- 2019-20 Fellowship for “Teaching and Learning against Anti-Judaism: Reading the Gospel of Matthew in Its Jewish Context” from Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning Workshop
- 2017-18 Fellow of the Teaching and Learning Workshop for Early Career Religion Faculty of Asian and Pacific Islander Descent Fellowship, Wabash Center, Crawfordsville, Indiana
- 2017 Whitney Humanities Center Humanities/Humanity Initiative Grant: *Philologia Sacra et Profana*: Constructions of the Authentic, with Irene Peirano (Classics) and Kirk Wetters (German), Yale University
- 2011-12 Whiting Fellowship in the Humanities, Yale University
- 2009-10 Connecticut/Baden-Württemberg Fellowship, taken at Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Germany

### SELECTED INVITED TALKS & RESPONSES

- 2026 “Paul, Mission, and the End(s) of the World,” Plenary Lecture, The Princeton-St Andrews Scripture and Theology Conference, Princeton Theological Seminary
- 2026 “American Apocalypticism Now,” Public Lecture for the American Religions in a Global Context Seminar, Stanford University
- 2026 “Immigration & Apocalypse: Trapped within the Walls of the New Jerusalem,” Harshbarger Lecture, Pennsylvania State, University Park
- 2025 “Genetics, Molecular Discourse, and Performance: The New Testament as an Ontological Individual,” Philology’s Prism conference, Sint-Pietersabdij, Ghent, Belgium
- 2025 “The Gospel of Mark and Empire,” Ewha Womans University, Seoul, South Korea
- 2025 “Inclusion and Exclusion in the New Jerusalem,” Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea
- 2025 “Rejecting the American Vision of Apocalyptic Immigration,” The Future of Faith conference for the Center for Faith and Justice, San Francisco
- 2025 “Immigration and Apocalypse: Yii-Jan Lin in conversation with Dan-el Padilla Peralta,” Yale University, sponsored by Yale Divinity School, Yale Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration, and ARCHAIA: Yale Program for the Study of Global Antiquity
- 2024 “Genes, Music, and the New Testament Text: On the Performance of Philology,” Opening Lecture of *Metaphérein: Theories and Methods of Stemmatology (Studia Stemmatalogica X)*, Monte Verità, Switzerland
- 2024 “Apocalyptic Exclusion: The Book of Revelation and U.S. Narratives of Chinese

- Immigration,” Wake Forest University, alongside Russell Jeung, co-founder of Stop AAPI Hate and faculty at San Francisco State
- 2024 “Heavenly Bureaucracy: Immigration and Naturalization in the US and the New Jerusalem,” Keynote Speaker, Koinonia Graduate Student Conference, Princeton Theological Seminary
- 2024 “The Segregation of Biblical Studies,” Historical Contexts and Current Debates: The Future of New Testament Studies workshop, hosted by Universität Göttingen at the Xplanatorium, Schloss Herrenhausen, Hanover, Germany
- 2023 “Apocalyptic Exclusion: The Book of Revelation and U.S. Exclusion of Chinese Immigrants,” Yale-National University of Singapore
- 2023 “America: The New Jerusalem,” Religion Salon, Barnard College
- 2022 “Music and the New Testament Text: The Possibilities of Creative Philology,” The Kennedy-Wright Opening Lecture, University of Edinburgh
- 2022 “Immigration and Apocalypse: The Revelation of John and the History of American Immigration,” Seminar at the School of Critical Studies, University of Glasgow
- 2021 “Mining the Archive: The Lives of Chester Beatty and the Biblical Papyri,” Fresh Perspectives on the Chester Beatty Biblical Papyri, Papyrology, and Communication in the Ancient World, Dublin
- 2020 “Disease and the Ethnic Other,” Divided Worlds: Contexts of the New Testament, Then and Now, McFarland Center for Religion, Ethics, and Culture at the College of the Holy Cross
- 2020 “Immigration and Apocalypse: Biblical Apocalyptic Rhetoric in U.S. Immigration Discourse,” Williams College
- 2019 “Musical Performance Practice and New Testament Textual Criticism: A Proposal for a Creative Philology,” Columbia University New Testament Seminar
- 2019 “What Is Creative Philology?” Beyond the Canon Seminar, Universität Regensburg, Regensburg
- 2015 “Made This Way: Religious, Cultural, and Bodily Conversion,” talk series “Conversion and Religious Transformation: Ancient and Modern Experiences and Paradigms,” Green College, University of British Columbia, Vancouver

#### **SELECTED TALKS & CONFERENCE ACTIVITY**

- 2025 “Here Be Dragons: Reading the Historical Jesus with Qu Yuan,” Society of Biblical Literature, Boston, Massachusetts

- 2025 “The Museum of Biblical Scholarship: The Art of Book Covers,” European Association of Biblical Studies annual meeting, Uppsala, Sweden
- 2024 “Numerologies of Exclusion: The 1924 Johnson-Reed Act and God’s Chosen,” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Diego, California
- 2024 Creative Pedagogy panel presentation, Society of Asian Biblical Scholars Annual Meeting, Yu-Shan Theological College and Seminary, Hualien, Taiwan
- 2023 ““Even Heaven Has A Wall Around It’: Borders and Walls in the US and the New Jerusalem,” Bible in America session, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas
- 2021 “Immigration Records and Naturalization in the New Jerusalem,” John’s Apocalypse and Cultural Contexts Ancient and Modern session, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting (virtual)
- 2020 ““A Scourge in the Hand of God’: Apocalypse, Plague, and the Other,” Minoritized Criticism and Biblical Interpretation session, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting (virtual)
- 2019 “Musical Performance Practice and New Testament Textual Criticism: A Proposal for Creative Philology,” Philology in Hebrew Studies / Metacriticism in Biblical Studies session, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Diego
- 2019 “Apocalypse and Immigration: The Use of Revelation in Immigration Discourse,” Exchanges in Biblical Studies Session, International Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Rome
- 2017 “Critical Race Theory and the Study of Antiquity,” panelist, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston
- 2017 “Certeau and the Two Ways: Digital Dissolution and the Demands of Power in Biblical Studies,” panelist, “Present and Future of Biblical Studies,” The Bible in Racial, Ethnic, and Indigenous Communities (AAR) and Minoritized Criticism and Biblical Interpretation (SBL) joint session, American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston
- 2017 “New Testament Textual Criticism in the Digital Age,” *Philologia Sacra et Profana*: Whitney Humanities/Humanity Conference, Yale University
- 2017 “The Anthropomorphized New Testament,” paper with respondent Stephen D. Moore, Ethnic Chinese Biblical Colloquium Winter Meeting, Drew University
- 2015 “Of Escoffier, *Gastronomie*, Craft, and Canon,” panelist, “Reading in These Times: The Critical Task,” Minoritized Criticism and Biblical Interpretation Session, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Atlanta

- 2015 “‘Burn Her Who Will Not Marry’: The Story after Corinth,” panelist, “(Corinthian) Women Prophets: Past, Present, and Future,” Rhetoric and the New Testament, Paul and Politics, Feminist Hermeneutics of the Bible, joint session, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Atlanta
- 2015 “Divine Plunder in Apocalyptic Times: The Despoliation of the Egyptians in Patristic Interpretations,” International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford University
- 2014 “Waiting on the Island of Angels: America and the New Jerusalem in Chinese Immigrant Imagination,” International Congress of Ethnic Chinese Biblical Scholars, Hong Kong

### **SERVICE TO THE GUILD & BEYOND**

- 2024- Council, Society of Biblical Literature
- 2023- Co-Chair: Minoritized Criticism & Biblical Interpretation, Society of Biblical Literature
- 2021 Advisory Committee, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology & Religion
- 2021 Reviewer – Book of Revelation, NRSV Updated Edition, SBL and Friendship Press, commissioned by the National Council of Churches
- 2020- Editorial Board, *Edinburgh Studies in Religion in Antiquity*
- 2020-2 Executive Committee, New England/Eastern Canada Society of Biblical Literature
- 2019-2024 Editorial Board, *Journal of Biblical Studies*
- 2019- Advisory Board, *Renewed Philology*
- 2025-7 Co-Chair: The Bible in America, Society of Biblical Literature
- 2019-24 Steering Committee: The Bible in America, Society of Biblical Literature
- 2018-2024 Steering Committee: New Testament Textual Criticism, Society of Biblical Literature
- 2018- Steering Committee: Ethnic Chinese Biblical Colloquium, Society of Biblical Literature

### **SERVICE TO YALE UNIVERSITY**

- 2025-27 Assistant Director of Graduate Studies, Early Mediterranean and West Asian Religions, Yale Religious Studies
- 2025-26 Inaugural MDiv Integrative Seminar teaching team, Divinity School
- 2024 Anti-Supersessionism Task Force, Divinity School

- 2025-6  
2023-24  
2017-20 Faculty Coordinator of Master of Religion New Testament, Divinity School
- 2023-24  
2019-21 Professional Studies Committee, Divinity School
- 2022-23 Faculty Coordinator, Master of Religion for Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Divinity School
- 2022-23 Curriculum Committee, Divinity School
- 2019-21 Steering Committee: Archaia, Yale Program for the Study of Ancient and Premodern Cultures and Societies
- 2017-18 Committee for Diversity, Divinity School
- 2017-2021 Faculty Advisor, Asian Students Association, Divinity School
- 2016-18 Convener of New Testament/Ancient Christianity Colloquium, Divinity School and Religious Studies
- 2016-17 Committee for Community Life, Divinity School

## WRITING FOR THE PUBLIC

- 2025 [“Pikachu protesters, Studio Ghibli memes and the subversive power of cuteness,”](#) *The Conversation*, 11 April
- 2024 [“The Trump Administration’s Approach to Immigration is Inspired by the Bible — The Book of Revelation,”](#) *Religion Dispatches*, 12 December
- 2024 [“Eating the Unspeakable: The Bible and Current Politics on Immigration,”](#) *Yale University Press Blog*, 1 November
- 2024 [“Unearthed skeletons are part of America's chilling apocalyptic story,”](#) *Religion News Service*, 31 October
- 2024 [“Americans use the Book of Revelation to talk about immigration – and always have,”](#) *The Conversation*, 23 October

## SELECTED PUBLIC INTERVIEWS & APPEARANCES

- 2025 “The Apocalypse of U.S. Immigration,” Faith Angle West, The Aspen Institute, Scottsdale, Arizona, 14 October

- 2025 “Immigration and Apocalypse,” lecture at the Yale Club, New York City, 28 August
- 2025 “A People of God during an Apocalypse,” Sunday morning sermon at The Riverside Church, New York City, 15 June
- 2025 “Immigrant Apocalypse with Yii-Jan Lin,” on *Data over Dogma* podcast with Dan McClellan and Dan Beecher, episode 107, 21 April
- 2025 “Pathologies of Faith: The Intersection of Messianic Myth with Power,” online symposium, 19 April with City Lights Books, San Francisco
- 2025 Interview with *Rolling Stone* for “[Are Trump’s Actions ‘Unprecedented’? Here’s What Seven Historians Say](#),” Miles Klee, 22 February
- 2025 Interview with *Ethnic Media* for “[‘Apocalyptic Destination’ – The Bible’s Mixed Messaging on Migrants](#),” with Peter Schurmann, 27 January, [Español](#) [中文](#)
- 2024 Interview with *AXIOS* for “[Yale scholar argues Book of Revelation sways immigration policy](#),” with Russell Contreras, 24 December
- 2024 “Open the Gates: Immigration and the Book of Revelation,” on *For the Life of the World*, podcast of Yale Center for Faith and Culture, episode 204, December 4
- 2024 “The U.S. as the ‘New Jerusalem’? Revelation’s Influence on Immigration,” on *Misquoting Jesus with Bart Ehrman* podcast, episode 110, November 26
- 2024 “Immigration and Apocalypse,” *New Book Network* podcast, November 28
- 2023 Commentator on NPR *All Things Considered*, “[Church of England says gender-neutral terms for God are up for discussion](#),” 13 February
- 2022 Documentary interview, *Great Books Project*, 1895 Films
- 2021 “Anti-Chinese Immigration and Apocalypse in US History,” Lecture, Yale Center Beijing
- 2021 Interview on KCRW *Life Examined* for “[The religious roots of today’s apocalypse](#),” with Jonathan Bastian, 21 May
- 2020 “Immigration and the Book of Revelation,” Interview, *The Bible for Normal People* podcast
- 2020 “Scenes from Ellis Island: A View from the Margins,” Lecture, Yale Center for Collaborative Arts and Media
- 2016 “Justifying Looting in Times of Crisis: Patristic Apologia for the Despoliation of Egypt” *Cosmologies* Spring 2016 (Harvard Divinity School: Science, Religion, and Culture)

2015 “Race and Image of the Divine,” three-part video series for *Moyo: Being and Doing*, a web resource created by The Upper Room

## **COURSES**

- Introduction to New Testament Interpretation
- “Race” and the New Testament
- Greek Exegesis: Gospel of Mark
- Greek & English Exegesis: Gospel of Matthew
- Greek & English Exegesis: Gospel of John
- The Secret Life of Texts (co-taught with Jacqueline Vayntrub)
- Gender, Sexuality, and the New Testament
- Revelation and Imagination
- Holy Places and Displacements: An Immersion Course in the Middle East
- American Immigration & Apocalypse
- Integrative Seminar: A Three-Semester Cohort Course

## **LANGUAGES**

Ancient Greek (advanced reading)  
Latin (advanced reading)  
Biblical Hebrew (intermediate reading)  
German (reading and spoken proficiency)

French (reading)  
Spanish (reading and spoken proficiency)  
Mandarin Chinese (reading proficiency and spoken fluency)

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

American Academy of Religion  
Ethnic Chinese Biblical Colloquium  
Society of Asian Biblical Scholars

Society of Biblical Literature  
*Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas*  
European Association of Biblical Scholars