
The Editorial: Quite the Ride

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<https://doi.org/10.1558/bsor.29055>

In this issue of the *Bulletin* we have some great pieces for you. We've changed up The Interview, taking on a profile format to learn more about historian and digital humanist Caroline Schroeder's research trajectory. In The Download we dive into one of her projects, the award-winning Coptic Scriptorium. We have two fantastic peer-reviewed pieces for you in The Essay. Wanda Alberts compares the critical study of religion as it plays out in Germany and Britain. Maroun El Houkayem brings us a fascinating excursus on the construction of the archive, looking at The Smith Sisters as a case study. The Buzz is back with your roundup of what we're seeing on academic social media. And in The Profession, we take a look at the interventions religious studies might make in museum spaces—and vice versa. We have a lot going on in this issue and we are glad you are here for it!

Personally, I want to take a moment to share my appreciation for your readership and support these past five years. When I took on the role of Editor for the *Bulletin for the Study of Religion*, I came in with two visions. The first was a memory of being a graduate student at Claremont Graduate University. I was waiting in line to see the office administrator, and there I spied, for the first time that I know of, the *Bulletin for the Study of Religion*. I picked it up and it was a lifeline to a larger view of the study of religion. The second vision was a desire to harness the first vision for a new era, an era in which print media and broad views of the academy were seemingly out of fashion. How could we make the *Bulletin* not another journal but a magazine for the international field, covering the work we do in and outside of the academy, in-person and online, live and in-print, in the classroom and beyond. Five years in, I'm proud to say that we have done this and done it together. A lot happened in those five years.

Where the pandemic forced many publications to stall or even fold, the *Bulletin* managed to bring you continual content to help you face a whole new context of challenges. We partnered with the Centre for Studies

in Religion and Society, the Religious Studies Project, the British Association for the Study of Religion, the North American Association for the Study of Religion, and the American Examples program at the University of Alabama to bring you compelling pieces to better equip you for your fieldwork.

We celebrated 50+ years of the *Bulletin*. Few realize that the *Bulletin* and its predecessor publications comprise one of the oldest ongoing publications in the North American field. We proudly continue that legacy and we're fortunate to have former editors, contributors, and readers help us to do so.

When you count up our past issues along with those in this volume's queue, the *Bulletin* will have featured the scholarship of close to 100 unique contributors in the past five years. And for a good number of these, their contribution to the *Bulletin* marks their first contribution.

The thing I celebrate most is the feedback that you have shared with me. As one contributor said, "I submit to the *Bulletin* because you are one of the few publications actually talking about what we're facing in higher education." I don't take lightly your appreciation of our generative peer review process, where our volunteer reviewers move past judging whether a piece is good or bad but instead commit to helping our authors craft their best work. And then there's the messages from publishers who complement our community's mode of review. We don't just evaluate a work, we take it seriously by extending the conversation into other parts of the field. That to me is the *Bulletin* in a nutshell.

This issue marks my last as Editor. I'm pleased to announce that my colleague, K. Merinda Simmons will succeed me in this role. I know that she will not only do a great job, but I am excited about some of the ideas she has to make an even better, more vibrant *Bulletin for the Study of Religion*.

Thank you to Equinox, my advisory board, editorial assistants, contributors, and readers for your good

offices these past five years. It's been quite the ride.
And I look forward to the pages ahead.

Signing Off,
Richard Newton

The Interview: Ancient Pasts, Digital Futures—Being Present with Prof. Caroline T. Schroeder

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In The Interview, we sit down with movers and shakers in the field to learn about the journey that brought them to where they are today. Usually, we bring you a modified version of our interview transcript so that you can read our guests' remarks in their own words. This issue, we decided to try something a little different. Editorial Assistant Sophia Honerkamp sat with Dr. Caroline T. Schroeder, Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Oklahoma and a core Professor in the Arts & Sciences Data Scholarship Program. Honerkamp explores how Schroeder came to work at the intersection of late antiquity, the digital humanities, and Women's and Gender Studies.

As a child, I absolutely adored the book, *Egyptology*. It was part of a series with books called *and*, so I doubt it was the most fact-heavy entrée into the world of Ancient Egypt studies, but I found it fascinating. I spent many days in my elementary school classroom happily engrossed in crafting little boats and people (maybe a crocodile or two) out of clay to try to replicate the illustrations I saw of ancient Egyptians poling down the Nile.

I have sometimes regretted not pursuing some kind of Ancient Mediterranean Studies in college, so it was wonderful to have the privilege to speak with Dr. Carrie Schroeder last December about her work on early Christianity in Late Antique Egypt as well as her journey into academia.

Last December, Dr. Carrie Schroeder was kind enough to sit down and talk with us about her career, her research on Early Christianity, and her groundbreaking collaborative digital project. We spoke about circuitous pathways into religious studies, the interdisciplinary nature of her research area, and the complexities and possibilities of studying gender and sexuality in the distant past.

Dr. Schroeder is currently a professor of Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Oklahoma and she previously taught in the Religious Studies department at the University of the Pacific. Her story is one that will be familiar to many religious studies scholars. She first encountered religious studies when she took a course called "Christianity in Late Antiquity" with Susan Ashbrook Harvey as a freshman at Brown. She was hooked and decided to double major in math and religious studies before dropping math and going all in on religious studies. Like many recent grads, she wasn't sure what she wanted to do next. After a year of working, she realized that what she really wanted was to be in college forever. She went on to do her PhD at Duke in early Christianity and has been teaching ever since.

Dr. Schroeder began incorporating digital skills/techniques in her early days teaching. She said that already in 2000 or 2001 she had her students doing digital projects and incorporating digital skills. She