

BODIES ON THE VERGE

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# BODIES ON THE VERGE

## Queering Pauline Epistles

*Edited by*

Joseph A. Marchal

SBL Press



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## Acknowledgments

The inspirations for this collection, of multiple kinds of bodies, are frankly too many to name. The contents to follow often acknowledge their intellectual, ethical, and spiritual debts, but here I endeavor foolishly to name at least some of the forces that helped us to deliver this book to you.

One of the theses of this collection is that queer forms of interpretation, analysis, expression, or simply use are reaching a tipping point, even a critical mass in biblical studies, and specifically within the study of Pauline epistles and interpretations. You can increasingly see this reflected in conferences, seminars, and symposia. Indeed, a majority of the fabulous essays to follow originated as conference papers at the Annual Meeting of the Society of the Biblical Literature, particularly in special themed sessions of the Paul and Politics and the LGBTI/Queer Hermeneutics units. Therefore, we owe a special note of thanks to the steering committees of both units and to the chairs in particular—Lynn Huber, David Tabb Stewart, and Diana Swancutt—who coorganized these sessions with me and then graciously allowed me to take the lead on editing this collection. Of course, such work is only possible when scholars are willing to innovate, to push and experiment, to extend themselves and the work that still predominantly disciplines approaches to Pauline epistles and interpretations. This is an understated description of the fabulous collection of colleagues whose work is represented in this book. As always, it is humbling to have colleagues trust you with their work, and I remain forever in your debt that each of you agreed to work with me on this collection and graciously accepted me as your editor and collaborator (often in multiple senses).

To be a little less than humble for a moment, though, I would venture to say that the best programs and sites of study in our fields are precisely those that make this work possible. The contributors to this volume come out of such programs and communities, and students and scholars would do well to pay attention to where cutting edge work is happening if they want to make such contributions to our world. The samples of scholarship

gathered here are theoretically informed, ethically accountable, and politically reflexive for a reason. Beyond the circles of support and engagement that we have managed to carve out at otherwise disorienting and often dehumanizing meetings, it is important to note that a few of these essays began as papers in graduate seminars run by colleagues at Drew University, particularly Melanie Johnson-DeBaufre and Stephen D. Moore. Indeed, there are places where this work is not marginalized. Still, it is fair to say that several of us have experienced forms of marginalization—we have been pushed around, but not exactly out. Given the conditions of academic labor in the early twenty-first century, I cannot help but think of colleagues who have stepped away, often because they have been pushed out. Many of them showed kindness, provided support, or simply inspired my work and the work of the contributors to this collection. At the moment, I am thinking of Holly Hearon, David Hester, Todd Penner, Lori Rowlett, and Holly Toensing, but because professionalization ostensibly forces a kind of forgetfulness, I know even these acknowledgments of debts are incomplete and inadequate. For now I call these up as one woeful gesture to point us toward all those bodies who have been marginalized, pushed around and down and out, within and beyond our guilds, and to articulate why interpretation should focus more on stigmatization, minoritization, exclusion, and normalization.

Semeia Studies has historically done its part in publishing scholarship in these directions; its catalogue remains an indispensable reading list for what biblical studies at its best is and still might be. It is an honor to add our voices to this series, and we cannot wait to see where else Semeia Studies might go. Many of the essays in this collection went in much better and clearer directions because of the constructive feedback provided by the series board. In that vein we owe an especially strong note of thanks to Denise Kimber Buell and the series editor Steed Davidson for their tireless yet incisive attention to these essays and the collection as a whole. This would not have happened without you, and you made my job as editor easier, minimizing any remaining faults or infelicities within the pages to follow. As always, it remains a pleasure to work with the entire team at SBL Press. Bob Buller, Heather McMurray, Nicole Tilford, Kathie Klein, and their team have once again capably shepherded this project through its final stages and into production.

But in closing I return to specifically acknowledging two groups of people to whom this collection is dedicated. First, this volume is dedicated to those committed scholars who contributed to this collection. It



is easier to promote, celebrate, and sing the praises of a project when it involves such wonderful people and perspectives in creating these fabulous bodies. Second, this volume is dedicated to those bodies that are on the line in the use of these texts and traditions. It is no secret that people have done some of the worst things to each other while claiming to be following scriptural mandates, precedents, and examples, most especially (though not only) from Pauline epistles. It is my genuine hope that the kind of work done here and in other, interconnected settings show that we are more than on the verge, past the tipping point, and reaching a critical mass for transforming the conditions for such bodies, and learning how to name, resist, undo, and create alternatives to these dynamics.

Joseph A. Marchal

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## Abbreviations

### Primary Sources

<i>Abr.</i>	Philo, <i>De Abrahamo</i>
Acts Paul	Acts of Paul
<i>Aff. dig.</i>	Galen, <i>De propriorum animi cuiuslibet affectuum dignotione et curatione</i>
<i>Ann.</i>	Tacitus, <i>Annales</i>
<i>Ant. rom.</i>	Dionysius of Halicarnassus, <i>Antiquitates romanae</i>
<i>Carm.</i>	Horace, <i>Carmina</i>
<i>Clem.</i>	Seneca, <i>De clementia</i>
<i>Conf.</i>	Philo, <i>De confusion linguarum</i>
<i>Cyr.</i>	Xenophon, <i>Cyropaedia</i>
<i>Dig.</i>	Digesta seu Pandectae
<i>Geogr.</i>	Strabo, <i>Geographica</i>
Gos. Thom.	Gospel of Thomas
<i>Her.</i>	Philo, <i>Quis rerum divinarum heres sit</i>
<i>Hist. Rom.</i>	Cassius Dio, <i>Historia Romana</i> ; Livy, <i>Historia Romanorum</i>
<i>Inst.</i>	Gaius, <i>Institutiones</i> ; Quintillian, <i>Institutio oratoria</i>
Jdt	Judith
<i>Leg.</i>	Plato, <i>Leges</i>
2 Macc	2 Maccabees
3 Macc	3 Maccabees
<i>Od.</i>	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i>
Pass. Perp.	Passion of Perpetua
<i>Pol.</i>	Aristotle, <i>Politicus</i>
Prot. Jas.	Protevangelium of James
<i>QE</i>	Philo, <i>Quaestiones et solutions in Exodum</i>
<i>Quaest. conv.</i>	Plutarch, <i>Quaestionum convivialum libri IX</i>
Res. gest. divi Aug.	Res Gestae Divi Augusti

<i>Saec.</i>	Horace, <i>Carmen saeculare</i>
<i>Vit. Ant.</i>	Plutarch, <i>Vita Antonius</i>

## Secondary Sources

AB	Anchor Bible
AcBib	Academia Biblica
AGSU	Arbeiten zur Geschichte des Spätjudentums und Urchristentums
<i>AJP</i>	<i>American Journal of Philology</i>
<i>AJSR</i>	<i>Association for Jewish Studies Review</i>
ANIMA	ANIMA: Critical Race Studies Otherwise
ANTC	Abingdon New Testament Commentary
ASN	American Studies Now: Critical Histories of the Present
BASOR	<i>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i>
BCS	Bible and Cultural Studies
<i>BCT</i>	<i>Bible and Critical Theory</i>
<i>BibInt</i>	<i>Biblical Interpretation</i>
BibInt	Biblical Interpretation Series
BibLim	Biblical Limits
<i>BICS</i>	<i>Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies</i>
BMW	Bible in the Modern World
BP	Bible and Postcolonialism
<i>BRPBI</i>	<i>Brill Research Perspectives in Biblical Interpretation</i>
BR/WT/SJ	Black Religion/Womanist Thought/Social Justice
CAS	Critical American Studies
CBH	Collection Bibliothèque des Histoires
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
CCT	Controversies in Contextual Theology
CF	Cultural Front
<i>CI</i>	<i>Critical Inquiry</i>
<i>CJ</i>	<i>Classical Journal</i>
CM/MI	Classical Memories/Modern Identities
CMP	Cultural Memory in the Present
<i>Colloq</i>	<i>Colloquium</i>
Contraversions	Contraversions: Critical Studies in Jewish Literature, Culture, and Society
CR	<i>CR: The New Centennial Review</i>

CRR	<i>Critical Research on Religion</i>
CSA	Cultural Studies of the Americas
CSSHS	Chicago Series on Sexuality, History, and Society
<i>CultAnth</i>	<i>Cultural Anthropology</i>
<i>CultRel</i>	<i>Culture and Religion</i>
<i>dif</i>	<i>differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies</i>
Div	Divinations: Rereading Late Ancient Religion
ECL	Early Christianity and Its Literature
<i>EvT</i>	<i>Evangelische Theologie</i>
GPBS	Global Perspectives on Biblical Scholarship
GLQ	<i>GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies</i>
GTR	Gender, Theory, and Religion
HCS	Hellenistic Culture and Society
<i>HistTh</i>	<i>History and Theory</i>
<i>HTR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
HTS	Harvard Theological Studies
HUT	Hermeneutische Untersuchungen zur Theologie
IBC	Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching
IG	<i>Inscriptiones graecae: Editio minor</i> Berlin: de Gruyter, 1924–
Int	Interpretation
<i>Int</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
Intersections	Intersections: Asian and Pacific American Transcultural Studies
JAAR	<i>Journal of the American Academy of Religion</i>
JBL	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JECH	<i>Journal of Early Christian History</i>
JESWTR	<i>Journal of the European Society of Women in Theological Research</i>
JFSR	<i>Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion</i>
JH	<i>Journal of Homosexuality</i>
JHFCB	A John Hope Franklin Center Book
JRS	<i>Journal of Roman Studies</i>
JSB	Jewish Study Bible
JSH	<i>Journal of Social History</i>
JSNT	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
JSNTSup	Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series

KJV	King James Version
LAO	Latin America Otherwise: Languages, Empires, Nations
<i>Lat</i>	<i>Latomus</i>
LCBI	Literary Currents in Biblical Interpretation
LCL	Loeb Classical Library
<i>LD</i>	<i>Lectio Difficilior</i>
LNTS	Library of New Testament Studies
<i>LSJ</i>	Liddell, H. G., R. Scott, H. S. Jones, <i>A Greek-English Lexicon</i> . 9th ed. With revised supplement. Oxford, 1996.
LXX	Septuagint
MCA	Meridian: Crossing Aesthetics
NAW	New Ancient World
<i>NBf</i>	<i>New Blackfriars</i>
<i>Neot</i>	<i>Neotestamentica</i>
NIGTC	New International Greek Testament Commentary
NIV	New International Version
NovTSup	Novum Testamentum Supplement Series
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
NW	Next Wave: New Directions in Women's Studies
OB	October Books
OBT	Overtures to Biblical Theology
PCC	Paul in Critical Contexts
PCHMA	Print Culture History in Modern America
PCI	Post-Contemporary Interventions
PGNT	Phoenix Guides to the New Testament
PKNT 2	Papyrologische Kommentare zum Neuen Testament Band 2
PM	Perverse Modernities
<i>PMLA</i>	<i>Proceedings of the Modern Language Association</i>
<i>PP</i>	<i>Past and Present</i>
PSMA	Politics and Society in Modern America
RA	Rewriting Antiquity
RAC	Race and American Culture
<i>RCRFA</i>	<i>Rei Cretariae Romanae Fautorum Acta</i>
<i>RelAmer</i>	<i>Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation</i>

<i>RelArts</i>	<i>Religion and the Arts</i>
<i>RelGen</i>	<i>Religion and Gender</i>
RSV	Revised Standard Version
RT	Radical Theologies
RTHC	Romans through History and Cultures
SAQ	<i>South Atlantic Quarterly</i>
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
SemeiaSt	Semeia Studies
SerQ	Series Q
<i>Signs</i>	<i>Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society</i>
SNTSMS	Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series
SNTW	Studies of the New Testament and Its World
<i>SocAn</i>	<i>Society and Animals</i>
<i>SocT</i>	<i>Social Text</i>
<i>Syn</i>	<i>Synkrisis: Comparative Approaches to Early Christianity in Greco-Roman Culture</i>
TG	Thinking Gender
ThQ	Theory Q
<i>ThS</i>	<i>Theology and Sexuality</i>
<i>ThTo</i>	<i>Theology Today</i>
TSAJ	Texte und Studien zum antiken Judentum
TTC	Transdisciplinary Theological Colloquia
<i>UCLF</i>	<i>University of Chicago Legal Forum</i>
USQR	<i>Union Seminary Quarterly Review</i>
VLR	<i>Virginia Law Review</i>
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary
WL	Wellek Lectures
WUNT	Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament
WW	<i>Word and World</i>
YJC	<i>Yale Journal of Criticism</i>
<i>Yod</i>	<i>Yod: Revue des études hébraïques et juives</i>
ZNW	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft und die Kunde der älteren Kirche</i>
ZPE	<i>Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik</i>

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