



Rikki Liu

**2024 Bernadette J. Brooten Award for
Scholarship in Gender, Sexuality, and
Embodiment**

The 2024 Bernadette J. Brooten Award for Scholarship in Gender, Sexuality, and Embodiment has been awarded to Rikki Liu for her paper entitled “Scripting Pain, Distributing Affect: P.Mich.inv.1190 and the Gendered Labor of Ritual.”

Rikki Wenxin Liu is a doctoral student in Religious Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Liu pursues two interrelated threads of research interests. The first examines Coptic texts, with a focus on healing, ritual texts, magical papyri, and gender and the body in late antiquity. The second, forming the topic of their dissertation, focuses on the Nag Hammadi Library, intellectual histories surrounding the concept of Gnosticism, and uses of Nag Hammadi texts in American art and literature. Liu is interested in the relationship between human bodies and text in its many different forms from antiquity to the present, as well as the relationship between academic knowledge production and popular culture. Outside of academic interests, she engages in creative pursuits including pottery and fiber arts and enjoys the friendship of an orange cat named Poeik.

The goal of the Bernadette J. Brooten Award is to support and encourage early career researchers developing innovative approaches to the critical study of gender, sexuality, and/or embodiment in relation to biblical texts and traditions (broadly cast), especially with projects that foreground feminist, womanist, queer, and/or trans approaches. The award is given to a SBL member who is current graduate student or has received a Ph.D. or Th.D. in biblical studies or a related field within the last ten years and includes a cash prize of \$1,000. Papers for this award are evaluated on the basis of three categories:

- Persuasive thesis that engages emerging methodologies and changing paradigms in relation to gender, sexuality, and/or embodiment, and demonstrates quality of scholarship and significance to the field;
- Clarity of expression and thought;
- Originality and creativity

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the numerous contributors for making this scholarship award possible.