

## DR. LAVINIA CERIONI

### Key Research Interests

Early Christianity; Women History; Biblical exegesis; Intellectual History; Church History; Digital Humanities; Alexandrian Tradition; Origen of Alexandria; Gnosticism.

### Academic Positions

- 02/05/2025 – 30/04/2026 – BE FOR ERC *Words of Wisdom* (WoW)  
Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza”, Italy
- 10/12/2024 Award winner FIS Starting Grant  
Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza”, Italy  
PI: *Feminine Metaphors and Allegories: Uncovering Layers of Meaning in Early Christianity*  
(FEMALE)
- 01/04/2024-28/02/2025 – AUFF Nova  
Aarhus University, Denmark  
Project co-PI: *Early Christian Metaphors*
- 01/02/2021 - 31/03/2024 – Marie Curie Individual Fellowship  
Aarhus University, Denmark  
PI of *Origen on Gender* (OriGen)  
17/02/2022-17/04/2023 – Career break (Maternity leave)
- 01/09/2018 - 30/06/2020 – Lecturer Ancient Philosophy  
Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum  
Lateranense University, Italy
- 01/09/2018 - 31/12/2018 – Research Associate  
ERC "The Cult of Saints"  
PI: Prof. Brian Ward-Perkins, Faculty of Classics  
University of Oxford, United Kingdom

### Education

- 01/09/2014-19/12/2018 - PhD in Theology and Religious Studies  
University of Nottingham, United Kingdom

Final grade: Passed with no corrections

Supervisor: Professor Thomas O'Loughlin and Professor Mary Cunningham

- 01/09/2011-14/07/2014 - MA in History of Philosophy University of Rome La Sapienza, Italy  
Final grade: 110/110 cum laude  
Supervisor: Prof. Gaetano Lettieri
- 01/10/2009-29/06/2011 - Diploma of Archival Science, Paleography and Diplomatics School of the State Archives of Rome, Italy  
Final grade: 137/150
- 01/09/2008-16/12/2012 - BA in Philosophy  
University of Rome La Sapienza, Italy  
Final grade: 110/110 cum laude  
Supervisor: Prof. Gaetano Lettieri

## **Publications**

### Monograph (peer-reviewed):

- (2021) *Revealing Women. Feminine Imagery in Gnostic-Christian Texts*, *Studia Traditionis Theologiae* 35, Turnhout: Brepols.

### Articles in Fascia A (peer-reviewed):

- (2025) “Un velo sul volto: prospettive di genere nell’esegesi origeniana”, *Augustinianum* 65:1 (accepted for publication).
- (2025) “Patrons, Students, Intellectuals, and Martyrs: Women in Origen’s Life and Eusebius’ Biography”, *Open Theology* 11:1.
- (2024) “Feminine Metaphorical Language: Platonic Resonances in Origen of Alexandria.” in L. Cerioni (ed.), *Gendered Allegories: Origen of Alexandria and the Representation of the Feminine in Patristic Literature*, *Open Theology* 10:1.
- (2019) “Bodily Souls? Paradoxical Bodies in Origen’s Theology of Progress”, *ZAC* 23:1, 21-35.

### Journal Special Issue (peer-reviewed):

- (2024) (ed.) *Gendered Allegories. Origen of Alexandria and the Representation of the Feminine in Patristic Literature*, *Open Theology* 10:1 [online open-access publication]

### Articles and chapters in collected volumes (peer-reviewed):

- (2024) “Editorial Introduction” in L. Cerioni (ed.), *Gendered Allegories: Origen of Alexandria and the Representation of the Feminine in Patristic Literature*, *Open Theology* 10:1.
- (2023), “Origen, Valentinianism and Women Roles” in *Patristica Nordica Annularia* 38, 79-95 (open access)
- (2023) “The Feminine as an Intellectual Category in Gnosticism: Proposing a Methodological Framework” in K. Ehrensperger - S. Sheinfeld (eds.), *Constructions of Gender in Late Antiquity*, Lexington Books, 82-98
- (2022) “Origen’s Sophia. The Wisdom Character in the Trinitarian Theology of Origen of Alexandria” in *Bibliotheca Augustiniana* XII, 77-92.
- (2020) “Donne luminose e uomini psichici. Metafore di genere nell’interpretazione gnostica della creazione genesiaca” in *XLVII Incontro di Studiosi dell’Antichità Cristiana*, SEA 157, 239-248
- (2020) “For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face’ (1Cor. 13:12). Pauline Reception in Origen’s Commentary on the Song of Songs” in H.A.G. Houghton – M.L. Davies – M. Vinzent (eds), *Studia Patristica* 100, 93-101.
- (2019) “Feminine and Bridal Imagery in the Book of Baruch of the Gnostic Teacher Justin” in A. Destro – M. Pesce (eds.), *From Jesus to Christian Origins*, JAOC 16, 515-534.
- (2019) “‘Mother of Souls’. The Holy City of Jerusalem in Origen’s Commentary and Homilies on the Song

- of Songs” in B. Bitton-Ashkelony, *Origeniana Duodecima. Origen in the Holy Land*, BETHL 302, 109-121.
- (2019) “Tempo tipologico. La nozione di tempo nel Valentinismo” in *XLVI Incontro di Studiosi dell’Antichità Cristiana*, SEA 155, 495-502.
  - (2017) “The Patristic Sources of Eriugena’s Exegesis of the Parable of the Bridesmaids” in M. Vinzent (ed.) *From the Fourth Century (Latin Writers) - Nachleben*, Studia Patristica 97, 355-366.

### **Awards and Acknowledgements**

- 10/03/2025-9/03/2028 – Award winner FIS Starting Grant (1.4 mln €)
- 01/04/2024 – 31/03/2025 – AUFF NOVA Fellowship (approx. 80.000 €)
- 01/02/2021 - 31/03/2024 – Marie Curie Individual Fellowship (approx. 264.000 €)
- 01/07/2022 – 30/08/2022 – Carlsberg Conference Grant (5.000 €)
- 01/09/2014-19/12/2018 – Pro-Vice Chancellor Scholarship for Research Excellence, University of Nottingham (approx. 30.000 €)
- 01/06/2017 – Theology Research grant, University of Nottingham (350 €)
- 14/06/2017 – 29/06/2017 – Hellenic Society Research Grants, London Summer School in Coptic (250 €)
- 01/08/2016 – Theology Research grant, University of Nottingham (350 €)
- 01/09/2015 – Theology Research grant, University of Nottingham (350 €)

### **Invited Conference Presentations**

- 10/09/2025 – 12/09/2025: *Tra mito e realtà: donne e Gnosticismo*, Poetesse, patronne, lettrici, sante: donne e testi nel mondo mediterraneo antico (I-X sec. e.v.), University of Bologna
- 9/11/2024: *Martyrdom in Origen of Alexandria*, C-SAC workshop “Early Christian Metaphors”, Aarhus University (DK)
- 21/09/2023 – 23/09/2023: *Pregnancy in Origen of Alexandria*, 9th CISSR Annual Meeting, University of Bologna
- 24/04/2023: *Origen and Valentinianism. A Heretic Legacy?*, Patristic Day 2023, Lund University (Sweden)
- 26/05/2023: *Women and Eucharistic Meals: Ritual Eating and Drinking in Early Christianity*, Centre for the Study of Antiquity and Christianity Spring Seminar, Aarhus University (Denmark)
- 09/11/2021: *The Samaritan Woman. The Theological Significance of the Feminine in Origen of Alexandria*  
Center for the Study of Christianity and the Ancient Mediterranean, Aarhus University (Denmark)
- 03/11/2021 – 04/11/2021: *Origen’s Sophia. The Wisdom Character in the Trinitarian Theology of Origen of Alexandria*, Biblioteca Agustiniana de Buenos Aires (Argentina)
- 29/05/2021 – 30/06/2021: *The Feminine as a Theological Framework: the Case of Gnosticism*, in Canadian Society of Patristic Studies Annual Conference (Canada)
- 24/05/2018: *The Notion of Imago Dei in the Gospel of Thomas*, Theology Department Seminar, University of Nottingham (UK)
- 13/02/2018 – 14/02/2018: *Bodily Souls? Paradoxical Bodies in Origen’s Theology of Progress*, ITN “Human dignity” Research Workshop, Aarhus University (Denmark)
- 19/02/2016: *The Historical Enigma of Simon the Magician*, CBET Postgraduate Conference, University of Nottingham (UK)

### **Conference presentations (accepted abstracts)**

- 3/10/2024 – 5/10/2024: *From Sophia to Logos: Theological Shifts in the Tripartite Tractate and Valentinian Theology*, CISSR Annual Meeting, University of Bologna (Italy)
- 5/8/2024 – 9/8/2024: *Women as a Theological Code in Origen of Alexandria*, 19th Oxford Patristic Conference, University of Oxford (UK)

- 9/05/2024 – 11/05/2024: *Linguaggi di genere nei primi secoli del cristianesimo*, L Incontro di Studiosi dell'Antichità Cristiana, Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum (Italy)
- 6/05/2024: *Cultural Paradigms of the Feminine in Antiquity*, C-SAC workshop, Aarhus University
- 10/05/2023 – 12/05/2023: *Perfezione, Sapienza e reciprocità. Il volto di Dio in Origene*, XLIX Incontro di studiosi dell'antichità cristiana, Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum, Rome (Italy)
- 16/08/2022 – 19/08/2022: *Origen and the Feminine* (workshop coordinator), Colloquium Origenianum Tertium Decimum, Münster University (Germany)
- 29/08/2021 – 02/09/2021: *The Elusive Reception of the Valentinian Feminine in Origen of Alexandria* EASR 2021, University of Pisa (Italy)
- 18/07/2021 – 21/07/2021: *The Feminine as an Intellectual Category*, 12th Enoch Nangeroni Meeting: "Constructions of Gender in Late Antiquity" (USA)
- 09/05/2020 – 11/05/2020: *Typological Times. The Notion of Time in Valentinian Gnosticism*, XLVI Incontro di Studiosi dell'Antichità Cristiana, Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum (Italy)
- 18/08/2019 – 22/08/2019: *Shifting Genders in Gnosticism. The use of gender categories to determine the Gnostic affiliation of the Gospel of Thomas*, XVIII Oxford Patristic Conference, Oxford University (UK)
- 13/07/2019 – 16/07/2019: *The Exegesis of the Soul (NHC II, 6). A Study of Feminine Imagery as an Indicator of a Gnostic Affiliation of the Treatise*, ARAM 15th International Conference "The Gnostics of the Ancient Near East", Oxford University (UK)
- 08/05/2019 – 10/05/2019: *Donne Luminose e Uomini Psicici. Metafore di genere nell'interpretazione gnostica della creazione genesiaca*, XLVII Incontro di Studiosi dell'Antichità Cristiana, Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum (Italy)
- 24/06/2017 – 28/06/2017: *'Mother of Souls'. The Holy City of Jerusalem in Origen's Commentary and Homilies on the Song of Songs*, Origeniana XII, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel)
- 28/09/2016 – 30/09/2016: *Christological Observations on logion 114 of the Gospel of Thomas*, CISSR Annual Meeting, University of Bologna (Italy)
- 04/09/2016 – 06/09/2016: *Pauline Reception of 1Cor 13:12 in Origen's Commentary on the Song of Songs*, 6th British Patristic Conference, Birmingham University (UK)
- 30/09/2015 – 03/10/2015: *Feminine and Bridal Imagery in the Book of Baruch of the Gnostic Teacher Justin*, CISSR Annual Meeting, University of Bologna (Italy)
- 09/08/2015 – 13/08/2015: *The Patristic Sources of Eriugena's Exegesis of the Parable of the Bridesmaids*, XVII Oxford International Conference on Patristic Studies, University of Oxford (UK)
- 01/03/2015 – 04/03/2015: *Ambrose as a Commentator. The Case of Exegesis of Matthew 25:1-13*, The Ninth Colloquium on the Textual Criticism of the New Testament, Birmingham University (UK)

### Teaching Activities

- 01/09/2018 – 30/06/2020 – Ancient Philosophy, Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum, Rome (Italy)  
Propedeutical year to Patristic License
- 01/09/2017 – 30/06/2018 – Dante, Religion and Culture  
MA in Theology, Online course
- 01/09/2016 – 30/06/2018 – Christian Thought and Culture up to 1600  
BA in Theology, Lecturer
- 01/02/2017 – 29/06/2017 – Important Thinkers  
BA in Theology, seminar leader and guest lecturer
- 01/09/2015 – 29/06/2016 – Research Methods and Resources  
MA in Theology, Online course
- 01/09/2015 – 29/06/2016 – Early Christian Writings: Outside of the Canonical Collection  
MA in Theology, Online course
- 01/09/2015 – 29/06/2016 – The Emergence of the New Testament Canon

MA in Theology, Online course  
01/09/2015 – 29/06/2016 – The Developing Tradition: Theologians of the Second Century  
MA in Theology, Online course  
01/09/2015 – 30/06/2016 – Reading Medieval Theologians from Anselm to Ockham  
MA in Theology, Online course  
01/09/2015 – 30/06/2016 – Christian Thought and Culture up to 1600  
BA in Theology, seminar leader  
31/05/2015 – 30/01/2016 Christ and Culture  
BA in Theology, Guest Lecturer

### **Memberships of Scientific Societies**

15/06/2023 – current: Member of Gruppo Italiano di ricerca su Origene e la Tradizione Alessandrina (GIROTA)  
01/01/2021: YouTube Channel Coordinator of International Association of Patristic Studies (AIEP)  
30/12/2020 – current: Member of the Canadian Society of Patristic Studies  
01/02/2021- current: Member of the Centre for the Study of Antiquity and Christianity (CSAC), Aarhus University, Denmark  
01/09/2017 – current: Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy of the United Kingdom

### **Research Dissemination**

- (2024) Introduction video course to Origen of Alexandria: 9 videos [AIEP YouTube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLi8LQSlCB2W7y3j\\_8DoIkih5sM9ROEzDh](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLi8LQSlCB2W7y3j_8DoIkih5sM9ROEzDh) ]
- (2020) Feminine Soul Care in Patristic Times I-II- III: The Feminine in the Early Church [Soulcare in Patristic tradition: a Legacy for the 21st century, AIEP Youtube channel]
- (2020) Women and Liturgy [Centre for Applied Theology YouTube channel, UK, 02/11/2020]

Rome 17/04/2025