

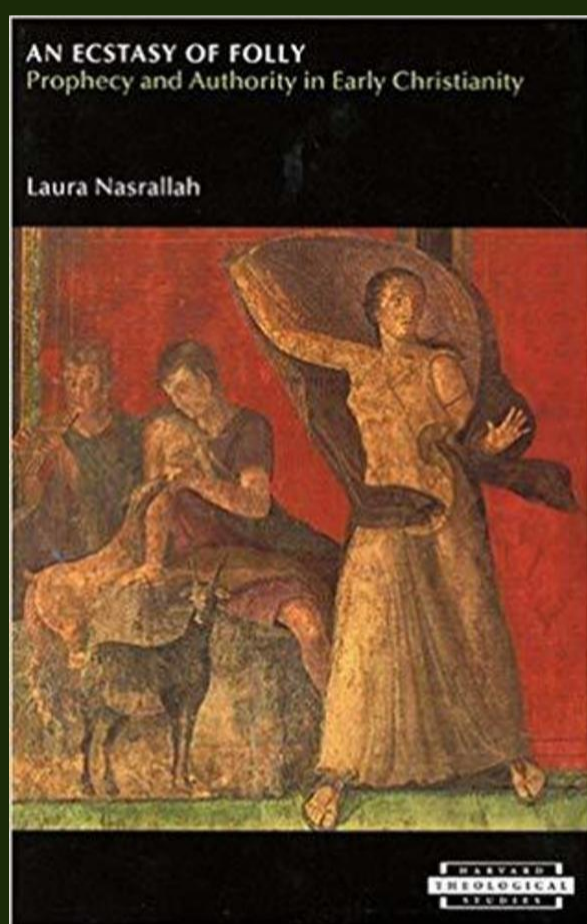
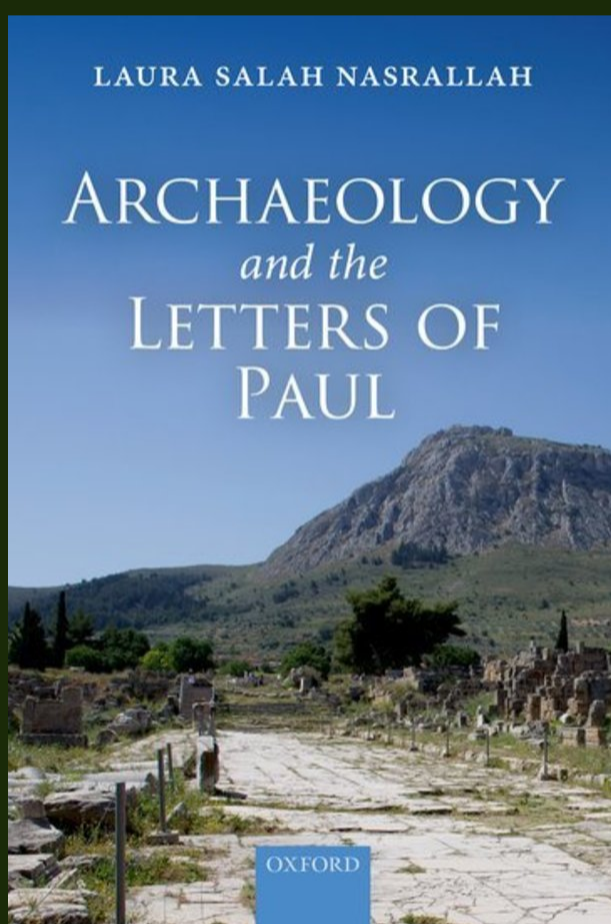
Laura Nasrallah: The 2020 Everett Ferguson Lecturer in Early Christian Studies

Laura Nasrallah's research and teaching bring together New Testament and early Christian literature with the archaeological remains of the Mediterranean world, and often engage issues of colonialism, gender, race, status, and power.

Her *Archaeology and the Letters of Paul* (Oxford University Press, 2019) focuses on reconstructing the social, economic, and religious contexts of those to whom Paul wrote, focusing on case studies in specific cities and regions. It argues for a clear and different methodology in the use of archaeology in biblical studies, and its chapters attend to the themes of slavery, travel and hospitality, grief, poverty and abundance.

Her first book, *An Ecstasy of Folly: Prophecy and Authority in Early Christianity*, focuses on 1 Corinthians and on materials from the second- and third-century controversies over prophecy and the nature of the soul.

Back in February, when Yale Divinity School Dean and CSC Advisory Board member Greg Sterling announced Laura Nasrallah's joint appointment at YDS and Yale's Department of Religious Studies, he connected Nasrallah to Yale's long-standing tradition of excellence in New Testament that includes Abraham Malherbe among other notables.



Director's Comments

The Ferguson committee continues to do an exceptional job of selecting lecturers for this endowed series, named in honor of one considered the "gold standard" in Patristics scholarship. **Laura Nasrallah**, the seventh annual Ferguson Lecturer in Early Christian Studies, joins a stellar lineup which I rehearse below for your reflection.

- 2014 **Elizabeth Clark**, Duke Divinity School, "Women and the Family in the Nineteenth Century Protestant Imagination: Between Ascetic Renunciation and the Women's Movement"
- 2015 **Robert Louis Wilken**, University of Virginia, "The Vocation of the Christian Scholar: Love of Learning and the Desire for God"
- 2016 **Sidney Griffith**, Catholic University of America, "Christians at Home in the 'World of Islam': The Legacy of Christian Theology in Arabic"
- 2017 **Margaret M. Mitchell**, University of Chicago, "John Chrysostom on Love, Marriage and Magic: Assessing the Evidence of a Previously Untranslated Homily (hom. in 1 Cor 7:2)"
- 2018 **Robin Darling Young**, Catholic University of America, "'That I May Enter the Temple and Astonish the Jews!': Early Christians and the Holy of Holies"
- 2019 **Brian E. Daley**, University of Notre Dame, "Beginning of His Ways: Christ as God's Personified Wisdom in the Early Greek Fathers"

Even as we announce the annual Ferguson lecture, we are saddened by the recent passing of Everett's beloved wife of 63 years, Nancy Ann Lewis Ferguson. An accomplished speaker, writer and homemaker, Nancy Ferguson "lived by faith, and died in Christ."

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