

Monday, 31.03.2025; 4:15 - 5:45 pm CEST

Jeremiah Coogan, Santa Clara University, USA

**“Synoptic Work: Roman Slavery, Gospel Writing, and Historical Imagination”**

Abstract:

This lecture takes aim at a set of problematic assumptions underlying one of the central conversations in New Testament scholarship, the “Synoptic Problem” that seeks to explain the literary relationships between the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. I argue that standard arguments about Synoptic compositional practices have ignored the constitutive role of enslaved and formerly enslaved literary workers in the literary culture of the Roman Mediterranean. By attending to the invisible labor of these uncredited collaborators, the article reimagines Synoptic gospel writing and expands the scope of the thinkable in New Testament scholarship.

Bio:

Jeremiah Coogan (PhD Notre Dame) is a historian of religion, textuality, and enslavement in the Roman Mediterranean. He is Assistant Professor of New Testament at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University. He is author of the award-winning monograph *Eusebius the Evangelist: Rewriting the Fourfold Gospel in Late Antiquity* (Oxford 2023) and co-editor of *Writing, Enslavement, and Power in the Roman Mediterranean, 100 BCE–300 CE* (Oxford 2025).