

Appointments

Assistant Professor	University of Washington, Department of History. 2023–Present
Carol Thomas Endowed Professor of Ancient History	Affiliated faculty in Jewish Studies and Comparative Religion
Visiting Professor	University of Copenhagen, Prison Project: Materiality of Incarceration in Mediterranean Antiquity. 2023–26
ACLS Postdoctoral Fellow	Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Literature Section. 2022–23
Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow	University of Southern California, Humanities in a Digital World Program. 2020–22
Visiting Scholar	Sapienza Università di Roma, Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Antichità. 2019–20

Education

- Ph. D. Princeton University. Department of Religion, Program in the Ancient World. 2014–20.
- M.A.R. Yale University. Divinity School. 2012–14. (Universität Heidelberg, 2013–14)
- B.A. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Religious Studies, Philosophy. 2008–12.

Books

- *Ancient Mediterranean Incarceration*, with Matthew D. C. Larsen. University of California Press. August 2025. (Open Access, Hardcover and Paperback, Audiobook in production)
- *The Christianization of Knowledge in Late Antiquity: Intellectual and Material Transformations*. Cambridge University Press, 2023. (Open Access, Paperback 2025)
 - Reviews: *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, *Church History*, *Journal of Early Christian Studies*, *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*, *Journal of Late Antiquity*, *Journal of Roman Studies*, *Scripta Theologica*, *Sehepunkte*, *Textual Cultures*, *Times Literary Supplement*
 - Winner: 2024 Lautenschläger Award, Shortlist: 2024 SHARP Book History Book Prize, 2024 AAR Best First Book in the History of Religions Award
- *Rethinking 'Authority' in Late Antiquity: Authorship, Law, and Transmission in Jewish and Christian Tradition*, edited with AJ Berkovitz. Routledge, 2018. (Paperback 2020)

Articles

- “Materiality of Incarceration in Mediterranean Antiquity: The Prison Project (2023–2026),” with Niels Bargfeldt, Hallvard Indgjerd, Evan Levine, Rebecca Levitan, Naomi Reiss, and Matthew D. C. Larsen. *Early Christianity* 15.4 (2024): 545–565.
- “Legal Pluralism as a Category of Analysis,” with Jessica Marglin. *Law and History Review* 42.2 (2024): 143–153. (Open Access)
- “Widening the frame of ancient legal history,” *KOINΩNIA* 46 (2022): 345–349.
- “Reconsidering the Earliest Synagogue in Yemen,” with Simcha Gross. *Studies in Late Antiquity* 6.4 (2022): 627–50.
- “Iunius Saturninus: a New African Centenarian” with Brent D. Shaw. *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* 220 (2021): 306–10.
- “A Roman military prison at Lambaesis” with Matthew D. C. Larsen. *Studies in Late Antiquity* 5.1 (2021): 65–102.
- “Christians and the Codex: Generic Materiality and Early Gospel Traditions” with Matthew D. C. Larsen. *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 27.3 (2019): 383–415.
- “Authority in Contemporary Historiography” with AJ Berkovitz in *Rethinking 'Authority' in Late Antiquity* eds. Berkovitz and Letteney. London: Routledge, 2018.

- “Authenticity and Authority: the case for dismantling a dubious correlation” in *Rethinking ‘Authority’ in Late Antiquity* eds. Berkovitz and Letteney. London: Routledge, 2018.
- “Toward a New Scribal Tendency: reciprocal corruptions and the text of 1 Corinthians 8:2-3” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 135.2 (2016): 389–402.

Reviews

- Leslie Kelly, *Philosophers, Jews, and Christians in the Roman empire: authority, text, and tradition*. Bryn Mawr Classical Review 2025.
- Walter Ameling (ed.), *Centre and Periphery: Working with the Inscriptions of Iudaea/Palaestina*. Bryn Mawr Classical Review 2023.
- Brent Nongbri, *God’s Library: The Archaeology of the Earliest Christian Manuscripts*. *Journal of Late Antiquity* 12.2 (2019): 550–52.
- Uta Heil, Annette von Stockhausen (eds.), *Die Synoden im trinitarischen Streit: Über die Etablierung eines synodalen Verfahrens und die Probleme seiner Anwendung im 4. und 5. Jahrhundert*. Bryn Mawr Classical Review 2018.03.50.
- Noel Lenski, *Constantine and the Cities: Imperial Authority and Civic Politics*. *Ancient Jew Review*, October 2017.

Archaeological Reports

- “Six Seasons of Excavation at the Castra of Legio VI Ferrata, Israel,” with Matthew J. Adams, Margaret Cohen, and Yotam Tepper. *Limes XXVI: Proceedings of the 26th International Congress of Roman Frontier Studies held in Batumi, Georgia (September 2024)*. Brepols. Forthcoming 2026.
- “A Roman Legionary Cemetery at Legio,” with Wiesław Więckowski, Matthew J. Adams, and Yotam Tepper. *Limes XXVI: Proceedings of the 26th International Congress of Roman Frontier Studies held in Batumi, Georgia (September 2024)*. Brepols. Forthcoming 2026.
- “Legio — 2023,” with Matthew J. Adams et al. *Hadasbot Arkheologiyot* 137 (2025).
- “Legio — 2022,” with Matthew J. Adams et al. *Hadasbot Arkheologiyot* 137 (2025).
- “Survey and excavations at Solomon’s Pools, Palestine: 2018 preliminary report” with Matthew J. Adams and Max T. B. Peers. *Palestine Exploration Quarterly* 151.1 (2019): 15–35.

Awards

- Digital Humanities Summer Fellowship, Simpson Center for the Humanities (UW) 2025
- Summer Fellowship, Simpson Center for the Humanities (UW) 2024
- Manfred Lautenschläger Award for Theological Promise, *The Christianization of Knowledge in Late Antiquity* 2024
- Premi di merito alla ricerca, “Christianizing Knowledge” (Associazione Internazionale di Studi Tardoantichi) 2022
- Digitization Grant, *Incarceration in Mediterranean Antiquity* (Mellon Foundation/USC) 2020
- Oscar Broneer Traveling Fellowship (American School of Classical Studies in Athens) 2019–20
- Paul Mellon/Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Pre-Doctoral Rome Prize (American Academy in Rome) 2018–19
- XIV Collegio di Diritto Romano, borsa di studio (Università di Pavia) 2018
- JVRP Field Research Fellowship (Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, Jerusalem) 2018
- Departmental Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (Princeton) 2017
- Peter R. Brown Prize, Committee for the Study of Late Antiquity (Princeton) 2016
- Ronald O. Perelman Institute for Judaic Studies Research Grant (Princeton) 2015–19
- Program in the Ancient World Fellowship (Princeton)

Mark Letteney

- Committee for the Study of Late Antiquity Fellowship (Princeton) 2015–19
- Stanley J. Seeger Hellenic Studies Prize (Princeton) 2015–19
- Two Brothers Fellowship (Yale) 2014–15
- Baden-Württemberg Stipendium (Universität Heidelberg) 2014
- Field Research Award (Yale) 2013–14
- Tuition Award (Yale) 2013
- Boyd Memorial Fellowship (UNC) 2012–14
- 2012

Work in Progress

- *Legio/Lajjun I: The 2010–2023 Seasons*. Jezreel Valley Regional Project Studies 4. Edited by Matthew J. Adams, Yotam Tepper, and Mark Letteney, book in progress.
- “Prisoner Letters in the Zenon Archive,” article under revision.
- “The book of *Revelation* in the second century: an archaeological and historical reassessment” by Mark Letteney, Matthew J. Adams, and Yotam Tepper, article under revision.
- “The Legionary Amphitheater at Legio,” by Mark Letteney, Matthew J. Adams, and Yotam Tepper, article under revision.

Teaching

- *The City of Rome* (HSTEU 250, UW Rome Center) Spring 2026
- *The Roman Empire* (HISTAM 313, UW) Winter and Autumn 2024, Winter 2026
- *Ancient Christianity: From Jesus to Muhammad* (HSTAM 209, UW) Winter 2025
- *Rome and Judaea: Empire, Religion, and Resistance* (HSTRY 388, UW) Autumn 2024
- *Writing Prison History* (HSTRY 498, UW) Spring 2024, Winter 2025
- *The Prison from Antiquity to Today* (HSTAM 221, UW) Spring 2024
- *New Testament in the Roman Empire* (21L.457, MIT) Spring 2023
- *From Jesus to Muhammad* (REL 339, USC) Spring 2022
- *Roman Religions from Classical to Late Antiquity* (REL 325g, USC) Spring 2021
- *What Was Truth?* (GSEM 120g, USC) Fall 2020
- *Advanced Archaeological Field Techniques* (JVRP Archaeological Field School) Summer 2017

Archaeological Field Research

- Assistant Director, Roman VIth Legion *Ferrata* (Legio, Israel, 2022–Present)
 - Director of amphitheater excavations, 2022–Present
 - Field archaeologist 2015–2019
- Field archaeologist, Mendes Excavations (Egypt, 2022, 2026)
- Digital preservation specialist, Tel Abu Susha Excavations (Israel, 2020)
- Co-director (w/ Matthew J. Adams), Solomon’s Pools Archaeological Project (Palestine, 2017–2020)

Service

- Society for Late Antiquity session organizer, Society for Classical Studies annual meeting (2027 with Young Richard Kim) 2021, 2027

Mark Letteney

- Search committee chair, Costigan Distinguished Lectureship in Ancient or Medieval History (UW) 2025
- European Association of Archaeologists, annual meeting session organizer (#1022) 2024
- Archaeological Institute of America, Felicia A. Holton Book Award Committee 2024–6
- Forum editor, *Law and History Review* 42.1 “Legal Pluralism in History and Practice” 2024
 - Articles by Clifford Ando, Lauren Benton and Adam Clulow, Emanuele Conte, Tamar Herzog, Caroline Humfress, Jessica Marglin and Mark Letteney, Ido Shahar and Karin Carmit Yefet.
- American Academy in Rome Advisory Council (University of Washington) 2023–
- Conference organizer, “Rethinking Legal Pluralism,” University of Southern California School of Law 2022
- North American Patristics Society, Digital Humanities Committee 2017–2020
- *Marginalia Review of Books*, associate editor 2017–18
- Princeton faculty/graduate student working group in comparative antiquity 2016–18
- Conference organizer, “Beyond Authority: Composition and Transmission in Late Antiquity,” Princeton University 2016
- Committee for the Study of Late Antiquity Book Group, coordinator 2015–18
- Princeton University ReMatch, undergraduate research advisor 2015–16
- SBL On-Campus Student Representative 2014–16
- Princeton University “What is?” Lecture Series, coordinator 2014–15

Lectures

- TBA July 2026
 - Keynote address, Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing
- Roman Prisons and the Mirror of History February 2026
 - History Lecture Series, University of Washington Seattle, WA
- Late Ancient Studies Reading Group: *Ancient Mediterranean Incarceration* December 2025
 - Duke University, Elizabeth A. Clark Center for Late Ancient Studies Durham, NC
- The Roman Legion at “Armageddon” November 2025
 - Vancouver Society of the Archaeological Institute of America Vancouver, Canada
- TBA November 2025
 - University of British Columbia, Ancient Mediterranean & Near Eastern Studies seminar Vancouver, Canada
- The Roman prison and its adjuncts October 2025
 - Cornell University, Department of Classics Ithaca, NY
- Histories of Incarceration: New Scholarship and Insights for Today September 2025
 - Union Theological Seminary New York, NY
- Christianizing Landscapes: Sacral Pollution and the Mechanics of Space in Late Antiquity May 2025
 - Universität Tübingen, Seminar für Alte Geschichte Tübingen, Germany
- Prisoner Letters in the Zeno Archive May 2025
 - Materiality of Incarceration in Mediterranean Antiquity Copenhagen, Denmark
- “They assembled themselves at a place called in Hebrew Armageddon” May 2025
 - Secrets and Revelations: Celebrating the Career of Elaine Pagels Princeton, NJ
- Prison Abolition, Ancient Incarceration, and the Mirror of the Past January 2025
 - Archaeological Institute of America, Puget Sound Faculty Lecture Seattle, WA
- Six Seasons of Excavation at the Castra of Legio VI Ferrata, Israel September 2024
 - XXVI Limes Congress Batumi, Georgia

Mark Letteney

- The Prison Project: new research on ancient incarceration at the University of Copenhagen
• Danish Institute at Athens September 2024
Athens, Greece
- The Civic Prison of Sufetula?
• European Association of Archaeologists Annual Meeting August 2024
Rome, Italy
- Travel and incarceration: evidence from the papyri
• Manfred Lautenschläger Award Colloquium May 2024
Heidelberg, Germany
- 3D modeling for historical research
• Digital Humanities Colloquium, University of Washington May 2024
Seattle, WA
- The Late Antiquity Reading Group: *Christianization of Knowledge in Late Antiquity*
• Yale University, Program for the Study of Global Antiquity (Hybrid) March 2024
New Haven, CT
- The Ancient Prison: Documents, Spaces, and Implications
• Whitman College, Judd D. Kimball Lecture in Classics February 2024
Walla Walla, WA
- The Prison Project: Reframing Roman Incarceration
• University of Copenhagen, School of Archaeology and Faculty of Theology December 2023
Copenhagen, Denmark
- Travel, Prison, and the Zeno Archive
• Travel and Religion in the Ancient Mediterranean December 2023
Århus, Denmark
- Featured speaker, Immersive Technologies and Cultural Heritage Symposium
• University of Southern California, Humanities in a Digital World Program September 2023
Los Angeles, CA
- Past as mirror: prison culture and prison reform in the Roman world
• Visualizing Premodern Abolition, University of California Santa Cruz April 2023
Santa Cruz, CA
- Reframing Roman Incarceration
• Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ancient and Medieval Studies February 2023
Cambridge, MA
- Scholar in Residence, Humanities in a Digital World Symposium 2022
• University of Southern California, Humanities in a Digital World Program December 2022
Los Angeles, CA
- Keynote lecture: “Old questions, new tools: 3D modeling, aerial survey, and humanistic research”
- Review Panel, *Hell Hath No Fury: Gender, Disability, and the Invention of Damned Bodies in Early Christian Literature* by Meghan R. Henning November 2022
Denver, CO
- Society of Biblical Literature
- The archaeology of incarceration in Roman antiquity
• Columbia University, Department of Classics October 2022
New York, NY
- Advanced archaeological field techniques: aerial survey and 3D modeling
• University of Southern California, Humanities in a Digital World Program July 2022
Los Angeles, CA
- The archaeology of incarceration in Roman antiquity
• University of California Los Angeles, Friends of Ancient History April 2022
Los Angeles, CA
- The deep history of incarceration (with Matthew D. C. Larsen)
• Barnard College, Natalie Boymel Kampen Memorial Lecture in Feminist Criticism and History March 2022
New York, NY
- Introduction to 3D Modeling for Archaeological Preservation
• University of Copenhagen February 2022
Copenhagen, Denmark
- Digital papyrology in action: writing the history of incarceration from lockdown
• University of Southern California January 2022
Los Angeles, CA
- Toward a typology of the Roman prison
• Department of Ancient Greek and Roman Studies (University of California, Berkeley) November 2021
Berkeley, CA
- Incarceration, enslavement, and the slippery archaeology of unfreedom
• American Society of Overseas Research November 2021
Chicago, IL
- Documents, places, and practices of women’s incarceration in antiquity (with Matthew D. C. Larsen) October 2021
Philadelphia, PA

- Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins (University of Pennsylvania)
- Seeing incarceration in antiquity: two case studies (with Matthew D. C. Larsen)
 - University of Birmingham, Department of Theology and Religion and the Department of Classics, Ancient History, and Archeology
- Roman Law in Late Antiquity: Christianization and Codification
 - University of Southern California, Center for Law, History, and Culture
- Water to *Aelia Capitolina*: The Pools of Solomon from Hadrian to the British Mandate
 - American School of Classical Studies at Athens
- Water to *Aelia Capitolina*: New Excavations at the Pools of Solomon
 - Archaeological Institute of America
- The “Gospel of Truth” and Nicene Textual Fetishism
 - Society of Biblical Literature
- Albright Institute Excavations at Solomon’s Pools and the Water Supply to Jerusalem (with Matthew J. Adams)
 - American Society of Overseas Research
- How is Truth: The Christianization of Roman Knowledge
 - American Academy in Rome
- Reading Law in the Theodosian Court: Scholarship in a Christian Empire
 - Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, Leibnizprojekt Seminar: Polyphonie des spätantiken Christentums
- The Theodosian Code in its Christian Conceptual Frame
 - Society for Classical Studies
- Solomon's Pools: A Preliminary Report on the First Excavations (with Matthew J. Adams)
 - Society of Biblical Literature
- Sacrality, Pollution, and Christian Space in Late Antiquity
 - Centro Interuniversitario per Studi Classici
- The Rise of Christianity and the Rise of the Universal Code
 - University of Basel, Institute of Ancient History
- The Christian Tradition of *lex generalis*
 - University of Pavia, Centro di studi e ricerche sui diritti antichi
- Nicene Creed to *Theodosian Code*: Christian Epistemology in Theodosian Book Culture
 - North American Patristics Society
- Authoritative Forgeries and Authentic Apocrypha in Late Antiquity
 - Society of Biblical Literature
- The Theodosian Talmud
 - Tel Aviv University, Department of Talmud and Ancient Jewish Literature
- The Roman VIth Legion ‘Ferrata’: New Excavations at Legio, Israel
 - Princeton University, Program in the Ancient World
- How on earth could spaces remain profane? Locative profanity and Christian topography
 - Princeton University, Program in the Ancient World
- *Acta conciliorum non leguntur*: negotiating authority at the Council of Chalcedon
 - Princeton University, Princeton Workshop on Book History and Religious Studies
- Concerning the utility of Zosimus’ Ἱστορίαι Νέαι as a source for the Augustan *Ludi Saeculares*
 - Oxford University, Program in the Ancient World
- Earthly Clientage and Divine Benefaction in Clement of Alexandria’s *Protrepticus*
 - North American Patristics Society

October 2021
Birmingham, UK

February 2021
Los Angeles, CA

May 2020
Athens, Greece

January 2020
Washington, D.C.

November 2019
San Diego, CA

November 2019
San Diego, CA

February 2019
Rome, Italy

January 2019
Frankfurt, Germany

January 2019
San Diego, CA

November 2018
Denver, CO

November 2018
Rome, Italy

November 2018
Basel, Switzerland

September 2018
Pavia, Italy

May 2018
Chicago, IL

November 2017
Chicago, IL

June 2017
Tel Aviv, Israel

November 2016
Princeton, NJ

January 2016
Princeton, NJ

September 2015
Princeton, NJ

January 2015
Oxford, UK

May 2013
Chicago, IL

Mark Letteney

Updated September 2025