

ANZATS Inaugural Book Prizes

In 2022 ANZATS established two book prizes to support excellence in publication of theological research, one for any book and the other for a book published by an early career academic. The Association is delighted to announce the winners of the inaugural competition at the 2023 ANZATS Conference, with each receiving a cash prize of \$1,000:

The ANZATS Award for Best Monograph goes to **Dr Anne Elvey** for *Reading with Earth: Contributions of the New Materialism to an Ecological Feminist Hermeneutics* (T&T Clark 2023).

The ANZATS Award for Best Monograph by an Emerging Scholar goes to **Dr Barbara Deutschmann** for *Creating Gender in the Garden: The Inconstant Partnership of Eve and Adam* (T&T Clark, 2022).

Congratulations to the winners and finalists and to all who submitted entries that showcased the quality of theological scholarship in Australia and Aotearoa. The ANZATS Council looks forward to announcing details of the next round of awards in the near future.

Professor Peter Sherlock
ANZATS President

Established Scholar Award – Judges' Report

The inaugural ANZATS Award for Best Monograph by an Established Scholar was open to any resident in Australia or New Zealand for books published within two years of submission. 12 submissions were received for books released between 2020 and 2022 on topics including science, ecological readings, trauma, ecclesiology and eschatology, Christian identity, performance criticism, Wesleyan studies, metaphysics, Christian-Muslim relations, Bonhoeffer, Australian Anglicanism, and biblical studies.

The judges would like to acknowledge the exceptional quality of all of the books that were submitted. It was a pleasure to read and learn from the breadth of theological scholarship being done in Australia and Aotearoa.

The judges awarded the prize to Anne Elvey for her book *Reading with Earth: Contributions of the New Materialism to an Ecological Feminist Hermeneutics* (T&T Clark 2023). This is a stunning book; it is beautifully written, academically rigorous, wide-ranging and highly original.

We also highly commended two authors as finalists: Doru Costache's *Humankind and Cosmos* and Dianne Rayson's *Bonhoeffer and Climate Change*.

Winner: Anne Elvey, *Reading with Earth: Contributions of the New Materialism to an Ecological Feminist Hermeneutics* (T&T Clark 2023).

Finalists: Doru Costache, *Humankind and the Cosmos: Early Christian Representations* (Brill 2021).

Dianne Rayson, *Bonhoeffer and Climate Change: Theology and Ethics for the Anthropocene* (Lexington Books 2021).

Judges: Associate Professor Michael Mawson, Rev Associate Professor Monica Melanchthon, Dr Edwina Murphy

Emerging Scholar Award: Judges' Report

The inaugural ANZATS Award for Best Monograph by an Emerging Scholar was open to early career researchers who are resident in Australia or New Zealand for books published within two years of submission. 13 submissions were received for books released between 2020 and 2022 by a range of prestigious publishers. The judges were delighted by the quality of the submissions which ranged across a broad range of areas including biblical languages, biblical studies, systematic theology, philosophy, literature, film, and history, as well as several interdisciplinary works. This is a very encouraging sign for the future of theology in this part of the world.

The judges assessed the submissions on the basis of their overall scholarship and presentation, including mastery of their area, originality of the contribution, and the extent to which the author has found their own voice.

Three finalists were chosen that stood out from other entries due to the impact of their works, whether on contemporary debates in the churches and wider community or on the future of theological scholarship itself.

Samuel J. Freney's book on verbal changes in New Testament quotations from the Septuagint demonstrates exceptional scholarship in the disciplines of linguistic theory, Greek language in the Hellenistic and early Roman imperial period, and biblical studies. The book is sophisticated in its understanding of the field, the issues involved, and in its argument. It persuades us to view such verbal changes as natural to the narrative process and has flow-on implications for how scholars approach quotation of Greek scripture in early Christian preaching and writing.

Daniel R. Patterson's book is a courageous and relevant work engaging the writings of gender theorist Judith Butler, in dialogue with Biblical themes that emerge from Genesis 2-3. Adapted from the author's PhD thesis, with a new final chapter, the book draws on the genres of biography, autobiography, and poetry, as well as the disciplines of philosophy, Christian ethics, systematic theology, and biblical studies. It stood out not just for the command displayed, but its accessibility to a wider audience.

The winner is Barbara Deutschmann for *Creating Gender in the Garden*. This book, adapted from the author's PhD thesis, demonstrates an impressive command of a wide range of disciplines including languages, biblical studies, reception studies, history and contemporary gender theory. The book encourages Christians to reassess their assumptions about the nature of gender based on a rereading of Genesis, and has the potential to make a powerful impact on the future of the church.

Winner	Barbara Deutschmann, <i>Creating Gender in the Garden: The Inconstant Partnership of Eve and Adam</i> (T&T Clark, 2022)
Finalists	Samuel J. Freney, <i>Aspectual Substitution: Verbal Change in New Testament Quotations of the Septuagint</i> (Peter Lang, 2020)
	Daniel R. Patterson, <i>Reforming a Theology of Gender: Constructive Reflections on Judith Butler and Queer Theory</i> (Cascade, 2022)
Judges	Emeritus Professor Wendy Mayer, Professor Neil Ormerod, Professor Peter Sherlock

Entries – Established Scholar Prize

Alan J Thompson, *Colossians and Philemon: An Introduction and Commentary*. TNTC (IVP Academic, 2022).

Anne Elvey, *Reading with Earth: Contributions of the New Materialism to an Ecological Feminist Hermeneutics* (T&T Clark 2023).

Charles Sherlock, *Australian Anglicans Worship: Performing APBA*, (Broughton Publishing, 2020).

Dianne Rayson, *Bonhoeffer and Climate Change: Theology and Ethics for the Anthropocene*, (Lexington Books 2021).

Doru Costache, *Humankind and the Cosmos: Early Christian Representations*, (Brill 2021).

Greg Liston, *Kingdom Come: An Eschatological Third Article Ecclesiology* (T&T Clark, 2022).

Jeanette Matthews, *Prophets as Performers: Biblical Performance Criticism and Israel's Prophets* (Cascade Books, 2020)

Katie Marcar, *Divine Regeneration and Ethnic Identity in 1 Peter: Mapping Metaphors of Family, Race and Nation* (Cambridge University Press, 2022)

John Owens, *Rorty, Religion, and Metaphysics* (Lexington Books, 2019)

Scott Harrower, *Dawn of Sunday: The Trinity and Trauma Safe Churches* (Cascade Books, 2022)

Douglas Pratt, *Contemporary Christian-Muslim Dialogue: Two Twenty First Century Initiatives* (Routledge, 2022)

Glen O'Brien, *John Wesley's Political World* (Routledge, 2023)

Entries – Emerging Scholar Prize

Alda Balthrop-Lewis, *Thoreau's Religion: Walden Woods, Social Justice and the Politics of Asceticism* (Cambridge University Press, 2021).

Andrew Dunstan, *Karl Barth's Analogy of Beauty: Its Basis and Implications for Theological Aesthetics* (Brill, 2022).

Barbara Deutschmann, *Creating Gender in the Garden: The Inconstant Partnership of Eve and Adam* (T&T Clark, 2022).

Bruce Pass, *The Heart of Dogmatics: Christology and Christocentrism in Herman Bavinck* (Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2020).

Christa McKirland, *God's Provision, Humanity's Need: The Gift of our Dependence* (Grand Rapids, 2022).

Christopher Seglenieks, *Johannine Belief and Graeco-Roman Devotion: Reshaping Devotion for John's Graeco-Roman Audience* (Mohr Siebeck, 2020).

Daniel Patterson, *Reforming a Theology of Gender: Constructive Reflections on Judith Butler and Queer Theory* (Cascade, 2022).

- Derek Brotherson, *Contextualization or Syncretism? The Use of Other-Faith Worship Forms in the Bible and in Insider Movements* (Pickwick, 2021).
- John Griffiths, *The Spirit as Gift in Acts: The Spirit's Empowerment of the Early Jesus Community* (Brill, 2022).
- Kerrie Handasyde, *God in the Landscape: Studies in the Literary History of Australian Protestant Dissent* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2021).
- Richard Goodwin, *Seeing Is Believing: The Revelation of God Through Film* (IVP Academic, 2020).
- Samuel J. Freney, *Aspectual Substitution: Verbal Change in New Testament Quotations of the Septuagint* (Peter Lang, 2020).
- Victoria Lorrimar, *Human Technological Enhancement and Theological Anthropology* (Cambridge University Press, 2022)