



Prof. Andreas Dettwiler – Curriculum Vitae

Personal information

Andreas Hugo DETTWILER, born September 16, 1960 in Solothurn, Switzerland; Swiss nationality; citizen of Maisprach (BL); parents: Karl Hugo Theodor Dettwiler (1917-2001) and Gertrud Abegg (1921-1985); married to Carine Fishman Dettwiler; father of two daughters; private address: Chemin de la Bruyère 52, CH-1197 Prangins; professional: Université de Genève, Faculté de théologie, Uni Bastions, Rue De-Candolle 5, CH-1211 Genève 4; fluent languages: German (mother tongue), French, English; Latin, Ancient Greek and Hebrew; phone number: +41 22 379 74 48 (office); +41 22 379 74 20 (administration); ORCID-Number: 0000-0000-9485-3324; andreas.dettwiler@unige.ch.

Education

High school (type B, latin), Solothurn (1972-1979); studies in protestant theology, University of Bern (1980-1984) and Tübingen (1984-1986); licentiate (= master) in theology (University of Bern, Oct. 31, 1986); PhD on the Johannine Farewell Discourses (University of Neuchâtel, June 1st, 1994): supervisor: prof. Jean Zumstein (University of Zurich); the thesis has been published in German 1995 at Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht in the series *Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neuen Testaments*.

Employment history including current position

Research and teaching assistant in New Testament at the Faculty of theology, University of Neuchâtel (1986-1990) and at the Faculty of theology, University of Zurich (1990-1994); research and teaching fellow at the University of Zurich (1994-1997); full professor of New Testament studies, Faculty of theology, University of Neuchâtel (1997-2004); full professor of New Testament studies, Faculty of theology, University of Geneva (2004 till today).

Institutional responsibilities

Vice-dean (2001-2003) and Dean (2003-2004) of the Faculty of theology, University of Neuchâtel; interim director of the *Institut romand d'herméneutique et de systématique*, University of Neuchâtel (2000-2004); Vice-dean (2005-2009) and Dean (2009-2013) of the Faculty of theology, University of Geneva; member of the Assembly of the University of Geneva (since 2015); Director of the doctoral program in theology in the French speaking part of Switzerland (CUSO), since 2016; several external expertises in Switzerland and in France on behalf of organizational and academic issues (University of Strasbourg, January-February 2012, and University of Zurich, June 18-20, 2012; external expert of several appointment committees in the field of New Testament studies at the Universities of Bern, Fribourg, Lausanne and Zurich).

Teaching activities (summary information)

During my years as research and teaching assistant and as research and teaching fellow (Neuchâtel and Zurich, 1986-1997), I regularly offered seminars in methodology (historical-critical reading of the New Testament texts), workshops in Greek reading, and others. Since my nomination as full professor in New Testament studies at the University of Neuchâtel in 1997, I have taught almost every semester at all levels (bachelor, master and doctoral programs; CAS; MAS; continuing education), on multiple texts and subjects (Johannine literature, Pauline literature, archeology of ancient Galilee, historical Jesus, parables in the synoptic tradition, the Q-hypothesis, NT anthropology, resurrection in second-Temple Judaism and early Christianity, the notion of love in early Christian traditions, etc.) applying various didactic (notably regular e-learning teaching since 2004) and methodological approaches (essentially a classical historical-critical approach, but also integrating tools from narratology, social sciences, cultural anthropology, sociology of knowledge, and philosophical and theological hermeneutics).

Memberships in panels, boards etc.

- Member of the Editorial Board of *New Testament Studies* (Cambridge University Press), 2012-2014
- Member of the Advisory Board of *Cascade Library of Pauline Studies* (Cascade Wipf & Stock, new monograph series starting in 2021)
- Jury member of the *Prix de la relève* of the *Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences* (SAGW/ASSH), 2011 to 2017
- Member of the Executive Board of *Labor et Fides*, Geneva, since 2015
- Co-director of *Commentaire du Nouveau Testament* (Labor et Fides, Geneva)
- Co-editor of *Le monde de la Bible* and *Essais bibliques* (Labor et Fides, Geneva)
- Co-director of *Zürcher Bibelkommentar. Neues Testament* (TVZ, Zurich)
- Member of the Advisory Board of *Theodoc* (an international, French-speaking network of doctoral programs in theology)
- President of the Scientific committee of the *Programme doctoral de théologie* (CUSO)
- President of the *Schweizerische Theologische Gesellschaft* (which is part of the SAGW), since 2017
- Member of the *Association suisse des enseignant-s d'université* (AEU/VSH), the *Société académique de Genève* (since 2015), the *Association des professeurs de l'Université de Genève* (APUG) (since 2015), etc.

Active memberships in scientific societies, etc.

- Member of *Society of New Testament Studies* (SNTS), since 2007
- Member of the *Committee for Eastern Europe* of the SNTS, since 2007
- Member of the *Executive Committee* of the SNTS, 2014-2016
- Member of the *European Association of Biblical Studies* (EABS), since 2020

Organization of conferences (selection)

- international conference *Myth and Science*, Neuchâtel, March 14-16, 2002 (co-organization)
- international conference *La source des paroles de Jésus aux origines du christianisme*, April 6-8, 2006 (Lausanne) and May 4-6, 2006 (Geneva) (co-organization)
- research seminar *Psychological analysis of the New Testament – the example of the letter of Paul to the Romans*, Geneva, October 12-13, 2012
- international conference in honor of prof. Enrico Norelli, *Rewritings as instances of the Bible's reception in Ancient Christianity*, Geneva, May 17-18, 2017 (co-organization)
- international conference *Receptions of Paul in Early Christianity: from the Beginning till Irenaeus*, Geneva and Lausanne, October 6-8, 2016, and Berlin (Humboldt University), April 6-8, 2017 (co-organization)
- international conference *The Römerbrief of Karl Barth 100 years later – retrospect and prospect*, Geneva, June 6-8, 2019 (co-organization)

Prizes, awards, fellowships

Visiting professor at the Department of Theology and Religion, University of Durham, March-June 2014; invited to give the *2019 Manson Memorial Lecture*, University of Manchester, Oct. 17, 2019.

Major scientific achievements during 2016–2020

My main research work during 2016-2020 focused on the following three areas, namely the so-called deuteropauline literature, the Gospel of John, and the historical Jesus.

(1) *The deuteropauline literature* began to attract my attention as soon as I finished my thesis project in 1994. It consists of several letters within the Pauline corpus of the New Testament which, according to a certain consensus in the specialized literature, were not written, or at least dictated, by the apostle Paul in the middle of the first century CE, but which date back to a later period, written by people belonging to the Pauline milieu and familiar with his thought. On closer inspection, the existence of these pseudonymous writings, calling upon the name of Paul as a figure of authority of the past in order to continue his thinking in new historical contexts, certainly constitutes a very interesting phenomenon of reception, but also raises many questions: what about the existence and perception of pseudepigraphy in the context of Greco-Roman antiquity? What about the reasons for the production of such literature? What about its rhetorical and argumentative strategies?

and others. In my research, I have concentrated on the *letters to the Colossians and Ephesians*, and occasionally on 2 Thessalonians and the so-called pastoral epistles. Since the 1990s, I have published more than twenty articles in French, German and English in order to better grasp this problem. At two international conferences in October 2016 (Geneva and Lausanne Universities) and in April 2017 (Humboldt University in Berlin), organized jointly with two colleagues from Berlin and Lausanne – prof. Simon Butticaz and Jens Schröter –, we brought together about thirty scholars to deal with numerous aspects related to the receptions – plural, and sometimes even contradictory – of Paul and his thought during the first two centuries of ancient Christianity. This work resulted in a voluminous publication in 2018 (*Receptions of Paul in Early Christianity*, de Gruyter). As for my work on Colossians and Ephesians in particular, my methodological approach is that of the historical-critical method, with a strong emphasis on the analysis of semantic, text-pragmatical and rhetorical procedures. For some years now, I have also been trying to integrate work from theories of collective memory, the sociology of space and the sociology of knowledge (cf. notably Alfred Schutz & Thomas Luckmann, *The Structures of the Life-World*, 1973 and 1989 for the English version). My project of a *scientific commentary on the letter to the Colossians*, which is scheduled for 2023, will be the culmination of this fascinating line of research.

(2) *The Gospel of John* was my first area of research as a young doctoral student. After the publication of my doctoral thesis on the Johannine farewell discourses – published in German in 1995 by Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht (Göttingen) –, I continued at various points to work on this corpus. During the period 2016-2020, I published a study on the understanding of the Spirit in the Gospel of John and completed another on the understanding of the Johannine miracle narratives as “signs” (σημεῖα). The study is expected to appear in 2021 or 2022 in a collective volume published by Mohr Siebeck (Tübingen).

(3) *Research on the historical Jesus* has been, since the advent of the historical-critical approach to religious traditions in the 18th century, a privileged and intensely discussed field of research in studies on the New Testament and early Christianity. For some years now, I have also been engaged in this debate, trying to familiarize a French-speaking public, often poorly informed, with the current state of specialized research. Thus, in the spring semester of 2016, I organized a cycle of ten public lectures on the question of the historical Jesus, inviting recognized specialists from several European countries to speak at the University of Geneva. The conference cycle met an unexpected success. The contributions were published in 2017 under the title *Jésus de Nazareth. Études contemporaines* (Geneva). I then encouraged Labor et Fides to translate Jens Schröter’s important book on the same subject into French (*Jésus de Nazareth. À la recherche de l’homme de Nazareth*, 2018). At the same time, I spoke about the historical investigation of Jesus in different university and para-university contexts, among others during a research seminar on June 14, 2019 at the University of Lorraine (Metz, France).

NB: some of my publications are accessible via the Open Archive of the University of Geneva, cf. <https://archive-ouverte.unige.ch/authors/view/31892>.

Andreas Dettwiler, January 11, 2021