

Writing the History of Early Christianity

Despite novel approaches to the study of Early Christianity – New Historicity, New Philology, Gender and Queer Studies, Material, Linguistic, Cultural; and developments in Reception History, Cultural Transfer and Entangled History – much scholarship on this topic differs little from that written a century ago. In this study, Markus Vinzent challenges the interpretation of the sources that have been used in the study of the Early Christian era. He brings a new approach to the topic by reading history backwards. Applying this methodology to four case studies, and using a range of media, he poses radically new questions on the famous ‘Abercius’ inscription, the prolific Hippolytus of Rome, the first extant apologist Aristides of Athens, and on Ignatius and the first non-canonical collection of letters. Vinzent’s novel methodology of a retrospective writing thus challenges many fundamental and anachronistic assumptions about Early Christian history.

Markus Vinzent holds the Chair for the History of Theology at King’s College London. A Fellow of the European Academy of Science in Vienna and Max Weber Institute for Advanced Studies at Erfurt University, he is the author of *Marcion and the Dating of the Synoptic Gospels* and co-editor of *Against Marcellus and On Ecclesiastical Theology*.

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From Reception to Retrospection

MARKUS VINZENT

King's College London



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