

Dr. Dr. Matthias Becker

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Professional Biography

I am a New Testament scholar and Classicist. I studied Protestant Theology and Classics at the University of Heidelberg (M.A. 2009, State Exam 2012) and the University of Tübingen, from which I also received a doctoral degree (Dr. phil.) in Classics (2011). Before arriving in Göttingen in 2015, I was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Tübingen’s Collaborative Research Centre (CRC) 923 “Threatened Orders” and taught courses on early Greek poetry at the Classics Department of the University of Tübingen. In 2017, I received a doctoral degree in Theology/Patristics (Dr. theol.) from the University of Göttingen, where I am currently preparing a monograph on Luke-Acts and teach courses in New Testament.

My doctoral thesis in Classics was awarded the Doctoral Dissertation Award of the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Tübingen in 2012 and the Manfred Lautenschlaeger Award for Theological Promise in 2014 (University of Heidelberg).

In 2015, I was awarded a Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, which I held at University College, Oxford (UK) in 2016. In 2018, I was awarded a research fellowship by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation to conduct research on marriage and family ethics in the New Testament at Yale Divinity School (New Haven, USA).

Research Interests

- New Testament (esp. Luke-Acts; Pauline Epistles; Pastoral Epistles) and early Christian literature
- Pagan criticism of Christianity
- Ancient philosophy (esp. Platonism und Stoic philosophy)
- Biographies of philosophers / pagan hagiography
- Greco-Roman rhetoric
- Greek literature in the Roman imperial period and in Late Antiquity (esp. Plutarch, Dio Chrysostom, Porphyry, Eunapius) as well as Early Greek poetry (esp. Hesiod)

Academic Appointments

- 10/2016–present Teaching Assignments at the Faculty of Theology at the University of Göttingen (New Testament Studies)
- 03/2016–08/2016 Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers (Alexander von Humboldt Foundation) at University College, Oxford (UK)
- 08/2015– present Postdoctoral researcher at the Collaborative Research Centre 1136 “Education and Religion” (University of Göttingen), project D02: “Religion in the Discourse of the Educated: The Gospel writer Luke and the Greek orator Dio Chrysostom”
- 07/2011–07/2015 Postdoctoral researcher at the Collaborative Research Centre 923 “Threatened Orders” (University of Tübingen); project D01: “Platonism and Christianity: Philosophical and Literary Constellations of Threat in Late Antiquity”
- 10/2010–07/2015 Teaching Assignments at the Classics Department, University of Tübingen
- 04/2007–03/2009 Undergraduate Assistant at the Classics Department, University of Heidelberg
- 2004 Undergraduate Assistant at the Department of Theology, University of Heidelberg

Education and Degrees

- 2017 Dr. theol. in Theology/Patristics, University of Göttingen
- 2012 State Exam in Protestant Theology and Latin Classics, University of Heidelberg
- 2011 Dr. phil. in Greek Classics, University of Tübingen
- 2009 M.A. (Magister artium) in Protestant Theology and Greek Classics, University of Heidelberg
- 2003 Hebraicum (Certificate in Ancient Hebrew language), Sankt Georgen Graduate School of Philosophy and Theology, Frankfurt am Main

Scholarships and Awards

- 2018 Research fellowship granted by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation to conduct research at Yale Divinity School (New Haven, USA)
- 2018 Grant to publish the monograph “Die Bedrohung der Polis. Hesiods ‚Werke und Tage‘ als Zeugnis literarischer Bedrohungskommunikation (Tübingen 2018)”; Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

- 2015 Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers, granted by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
- 2012 Grant to publish my first doctoral dissertation “Eunapios aus Sardes. Eunapios aus Sardes: Biographien über Philosophen und Sophisten. Einleitung, Übersetzung, Kommentar (Stuttgart 2013)”; Verlagsgesellschaft Wort (VG Wort)
- 2009–2011 Doctoral scholarship, Landesgraduiertenförderung Baden-Württemberg, Germany
- 2008–2009 Undergraduate scholarship, German National Academic Foundation [Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes]
- 2008 Advancement Award, donated by the Förderverein of the Faculty of Theology, University of Heidelberg (Zacharias-Ursinus-Preis)