



# *fides et humilitas*

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*Editorial:*  
*Female Voices in Early Christian Scholarship*

In their new book, *Christian Women in the Patristic World*, Lynn Cohick and Amy Hughes reflect:

A fundamental presupposition of this project is that women were instrumental in the construction of Christian identity and theology in the first five centuries of Christian history.<sup>1</sup>

In agreement with them, this journal presupposes that women are instrumental for the construction of Christian identity and theology in the modern expression of early Christian scholarship. Our vision for this current issue gives prominent attention to evangelical Christian female scholars writing and researching in the field of early Christianity.

We focus intentionally on this topic for three main reasons. I still remember the first time that I read and heard lectures from three women in particular: Elizabeth Clark, Margaret Mitchell, and Frances Young. These women's scholarship revolutionized the way that I perceived early Christian environments. Second, a CACS reference board member has shaped many of those involved with the Center by

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<sup>1</sup> Lynn H. Cohick and Amy Brown Hughes, *Christian Women in the Patristic World: Their Influence, Authority, and Legacy in the Second through Fifth Centuries* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2017), xxvi.

demonstrating a concern for intellectual privilege. He would often encourage us to examine/survey our personal libraries and whom do we quote in our scholarship, and to ask ourselves if these figures are persons of color or female authors. Third, there is great value in hearing from minority voices, for they will shed light and produce invaluable insights for the good of scholarship and the Church.

As Cohick and Hughes ask, we likewise ask, “Where do we go from here?”<sup>2</sup> Women in evangelical scholarship and female historical voices are essential for the fabric and life of the academic Christian guild and for the Church. As we seek to remember the “Matristics” of old, may we continue to “remember responsibly” the female voices in the contemporary guild of Christian scholarship.

And to this issue we now turn, with articles from Amy Peeler, Rebecca Rine, and Stefana Dan Laing. Additionally, we present an interview with Lynn Cohick and Amy Hughes about their recent book on Christian women in the Patristic world, followed by a number of book reviews.

Coleman M. Ford

Shawn J. Wilhite

Directors and Research Fellows

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<sup>2</sup> Cohick and Hughes, *Christian Women in the Patristic World*, 265.