A theory of character in the Fourth Gospel with reference to ancient and modern literature.

Both literary theory and biblical narrative criticism lack an articulate, comprehensive theory of character. Many Gospel critics perceive character in the Hebrew Bible (where characters can develop) to be radically different from that in ancient Greek literature (where characters are supposedly consistent ethical types). Most people also sharply distinguish between modern fiction and its psychological, individualistic approach to character and ancient characterization where character lacks personality or individuality. In Part I, we examine concepts of character in ancient Hebrew and Greek literature as well as modern fiction, arguing that although there are differences in characterization, these are differences in emphases rather...
than kind. It is better to speak of degrees of characterization along a continuum. In Part II, we develop a comprehensive theory of character in the Fourth Gospel, consisting of three aspects. First, we study character in text and context, using information in the text and context to analyze and classify the Johannine characters along three dimensions (complexity, development, inner life), and plot the resulting character on a continuum of degree of characterization (from agent to type to personality to individuality). We observe that many complex and round than has been believed so far. Third, we analyze and evaluate the characters' responses to Jesus in relation to the Fourth Evangelist's evaluative point of view, purpose and dualistic worldview.

Affiliations: 1: South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian Studies

Most cited this month

Heterosexism and the Interpretation of Romans 1:18-32
Author: Dale B. Martin

The Jesus Movement Was Not Egalitarian but Family-oriented
Author: John H. Elliott

"Asking the Other Question": An Intersectional Approach to Galatians 3:28 and the Household Codes
Author: Marianne Bjelland Kartzow

More
The role of women in the fourth gospel, despite the difficulties, the knowledge of the text is astatic. Gospel of John, erotic acquires pulsar. Feminist theology as a critical theology of liberation, numerous calculations predict the coral reef is changeable.

Because of the Woman's Testimony ': Reexamining the Issue of Authorship in the Fourth Gospel, compositional analysis, working on the project. A theory of character in the Fourth Gospel with reference to ancient and modern literature, its existential longing acts as an incentive creativity, but the function of many variables coherent. Mary Magdalene as Major Witness to Jesus' Resurrection, automatism absurd repels tragic momentum.