

# Preface

The essays collected in this volume are the proceedings of an international conference on the Sayings Source Q held in Essen, Germany in August 2019. The scholars contributing to this volume generally support the Q hypothesis. Nevertheless, they want to submit their own conceptions to scrutiny. Especially the question as to whether Q scholars are driven by unscholarly projections or prejudices was subject to debate. Sometimes exegetes also follow trends and fashion. Therefore, the central topic of this volume is a critical self-reflection on the hermeneutical options (and perhaps also biases) in Q research.

My special thanks go to John Kloppenborg and Gerd Theißen. Both of them asked me repeatedly why actually so many Catholic Scholars engage in Q studies. In thinking about this question, the idea to reflect on our own projections and prejudices in our scholarly work on Q was born; and in my own contribution to this volume I try to provide my answer to these questions as well as I could. Kindly, Jens Schröter accepted to give the keynote lecture to this conference. His idea to “suggest a moderate, ‘soft’ version of the Q hypothesis as a perhaps more appropriate approach to Q and the Synoptic problem” seems a viable option to reach out to Q sceptics and to take the heat out of our discussions. Many thanks go to all the participants in this conference who contributed with their papers and willingly engaged in the discussions.

I want to express my special thanks that this volume was accepted in the BWANT series. Prof. Marlies Gielen and Prof. Reinhard von Bendemann as series editors are valuable friends and the cooperation with Dr. Sebastina Weigert and Florian Specker from Kohlhammer always has been a pleasure!

Last but not least my thanks go to my team: Especially Dr. Enrico Grube has invested lots of time in proofreading this volume, further Lothar Junker, Kathrin Wohlthat, Marie-Helén van Heys, Michaela Richter, Isabell and Frederik Lazar.

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