Superstition and Magic in the Modern World shows how, despite the dominant culture’s emphatic denial of their validity, older beliefs and practices continue to shape the way we think and act today. In this book, J. D. Clark explores how superstition and magic have evolved over time, from their origins in ancient Greece and Rome to their persistence in the modern world. Clark argues that superstition and magic are not simply relics of the past but are actively shaping the way we think and act today. He shows how superstition and magic have been used to explain natural phenomena and to rationalize human behavior, and how they persist in the modern world as a way of making sense of the world around us. Clark’s book is a fascinating exploration of the ways in which superstition and magic continue to shape our understanding of the world.
Religious Deviance in the Roman World

Jörg Rüpke 2016-05-31

Religious individuality is not restricted to modernity. This book offers a new reading of the ancient sources in order to find indications for the spectrum of religious practices and intensified forms of such practices only occasionally denominated as ‘superstition’. Authors from Cicero in the first century BC to the law codes of the fourth century AD share the assumptions that authentic and binding communication between individuals and gods is possible and widespread, even if problematic in the case of divination or the confrontation with images of the divine. A change in practices and assumptions throughout the imperial period becomes visible. It is characterized by a growing individualization and individualism of the Roman law of religion. The book constitutes a genealogy of religion and a critique of religion at the same time – innovations and insecurity loom at the end and in particular for juridical conflicts today.

Character Studies and the Gospel of Mark

Matthew Ryan Hauge 2015-02-26

Characters in the Second Gospel are analyzed and an in-depth look at different approaches currently employed by scholars working with literary and reader-oriented methods of analysis is provided. The first section consists of essays on method/theory, and the second consists of seven exegetical character studies using a literary or reader-oriented method. All contributors work from a literary, narrative-critical, reader-oriented, or related methodology. The book summarizes the state of the discussion and examines obstacles to arriving at a comprehensive theory of character in the Second Gospel. Specific contributions include analyses of the representation of women, God, Jesus, Satan, Gentiles, and the Roman authorities in Mark’s Gospel.

In the Path of the Moon

Francesca Rochberg 2010-05-11

In the Path of the Moon offers a collection of essays concerning Babylonian celestial divination. It investigates various aspects of cuneiform celestial omen texts, horoscopes, and astronomy and their wide-ranging influences on later Hellenistic science and philosophy.

Revisioning John Chrysostom

Chris de Wet 2019-01-04

In Revisioning John Chrysostom, Chris de Wet and Wendy Mayer harness a new wave of scholarship on the life and works of John Chrysostom (c. 350-407 CE) which applies new theoretical lenses and reconsiders his debt to classical paideia.

The Symptom and the Subject

Brooke Holmes 2010-04-19

The Symptom and the Subject takes an in-depth look at how the physical body first emerged in the West as both an object of knowledge and a mysterious part of the self. Beginning with Homer, moving through classical-era medical treatises, and ending with studies of early ethics, philosophy, and Europidean tragedy, this book reveals the foundations of modern biology and medicine.