

THE TRINITY COLLEGE HISTORY DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

# THE WORD MADE FLESH

*How Gospel Books Transformed  
Late Antique and Byzantine Icons*



**Chelsea Connelly, PhD**  
*Yale University*

**April 18, 4:30 p.m.**

**Trinity College, 300 Summit Street  
Mather Campus Center, Rittenberg Lounge**

*A light reception will be held before the lecture in Wean Terrace Room A.*

Late antique and Byzantine representations of Christ almost always include a book in his hands, yet few scholars have investigated what these books meant to the images' original audiences or why artists continued to include them. Looking at both books in icons and icons as books, this talk addresses representations of codices in early icons of Christ and discusses the ways that Byzantine theologians used gospel books as comparanda for icons during the period of iconoclasm. It traces the development of the Pantocrator iconography and the growth of icons as they benefited from their connection to the Gospels.

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