Saskia Lerdon

Thesis Title: “Agnus Dei. Contexts of a Motif in Literature and Art”

I studied Theology in Berlin and Heidelberg. Afterwards I served as an intern in the Evangeli-
sche Landeskirche in Baden. Currently, I am a doctoral student and a student assistant at
Prof. Dr. Peter Lampe’s academic chair.

In my thesis I investigate the christological metaphor of the Lamb of God. A starting point
for this project is the episode of baptism in the Gospel of John (1.29-34), the only instance
in the New Testament where Jesus is literally addressed as ὁ ἀμνὸς τοῦ θεοῦ. At this point,
the Gospel of John also introduces and further develops traditions known from other contexts
of the New Testament.
The N.T. metaphor of “The Lamb of God” has strongly impacted European art for two
thousand years. Finding numerous examples within the history of painting and sculpture we
discover that this metaphor has been consistently reinterpreted and reconfigured in the artists’
historical situations.
A key question is: Have new meanings developed in the course of this historical process that
were not originally intended by the authors of the New Testament? Hermeneutical theories
such as that of Gadamer help to analyse the material in addressing this question.