

Critical Review of a BPA Approach to the Shroud of Turin
(Abstract)
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A key element in the case for the authenticity of the Turin Shroud is that the apparent blood stains it exhibits are forensically convincing. But a recent paper by Matteo Borrini and Luigi Garlaschelli entitled ‘A BPA Approach to the Shroud of Turin’ (published in July 2018 by the *Journal of Forensic Sciences*) has challenged the realism of these marks, claiming that experimental ‘Blood Pattern Analysis’ shows they cannot all be consistent with the blood flows to be expected on the body of a crucified man. A spate of press reports quickly followed, many with headlines conveying essentially the same message as the UK *Independent’s*: “628-year fake news: scientists prove Turin Shroud not genuine (again)”.

I argue that even granting the assumptions presupposed by the methods and materials used by Borrini and Garlaschelli, the results of their tests do not come close to suggesting, let alone proving, that flows of blood consistent with their BPA could not have occurred in the course of the crucifixion and burial of someone once enfolded in the Shroud, and whose sufferings are still recorded on its surface.

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