

## **ADAM H. BECKER**

Religious Studies Program  
New York University  
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New York, New York 10003  
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## **PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT**

Professor of Classics and Religious Studies, New York University, 2016-present  
Associate Professor of Classics and Religious Studies, New York University, 2010-2016  
Visiting Associate Professor, Department of Religion, Yale University, 2015-2016  
Assistant Professor of Classics and Religious Studies, New York University, 2005-2010  
Assistant Professor / Faculty Fellow, Religious Studies, New York University, 2003-5  
Visiting Instructor in Religious Studies, New York University, 2002-3  
Adjunct Instructor, New York University, Spring 2002

## **EDUCATION**

Ph.D., Religion, Princeton University, 2004  
Master of Studies, Syriac Studies, Oxford University, 2001 (with distinction)  
M.A., Classics, New York University, 1997  
B.A., Classics, Columbia College, Columbia University, 1994

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **BOOKS**

*Isaac of Antioch: Homilies on Moral and Monastic Reform* (critical edition and translation, forthcoming with SBL “Writings from the Greco-Roman World”)

*Revival and Awakening: American Evangelical Missionaries in Iran and the Origins of Assyrian Nationalism* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015).

*Sources for the Study of the School of Nisibis* (Translated Texts for Historians 50; Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2008).

*Fear of God and the Beginning of Wisdom: The School of Nisibis and the Development of Scholastic Culture in Late Antique Mesopotamia* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006).

### **EDITED VOLUMES**

Co-edited with Ra‘anan Boustan, “Sacred Objects at the Crossroads of Religious Traditions,” special issue of *Material Religion: The Journal of Objects, Art, and Belief* 10:4 (Dec. 2014).

*The Ways That Never Parted*, Reprinted in paperback with a new preface (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 2007).

*The Ways That Never Parted: Jews and Christians in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages*, co-edited with Annette Yoshiko Reed (Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2003).

### **ARTICLES IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS**

“The ‘Evil Inclination’ of the Jews: The Syriac *Yatsra* in Narsai’s Metrical Homilies for Lent,” *Jewish Quarterly Review* 106 (2016): 179-207.

“Positing a ‘Cultural Relationship’ between Plato and the Babylonian Talmud: Daniel Boyarin’s *Socrates and the Fat Rabbis* (2009),” *Jewish Quarterly Review* 101 (2011): 255-269.

“The Comparative Study of ‘Scholasticism’ in Late Antique Mesopotamia: Rabbis and East Syrians,” *Association of Jewish Studies Review* 34 (2010): 91-113.

“Martyrdom, Religious Difference, and ‘Fear’ as a Category of Piety in the Sasanian Empire: The Case of the *Martyrdoms of Gregory and of Yazdpane*h,” *Journal of Late Antiquity* 2.2 (Fall 2009): 300-336.

“The Discourse on Priesthood (BL Add 18295 137b-140b): An Anti-Jewish text on the Abrogation of the Israelite Priesthood,” *Journal of Semitic Studies* 51.1 (2006): 85-115.

“Doctoring the Past in the Present: E. A. Wallis Budge, the Discourse on Magic, and the Colonization of Iraq,” *History of Religions* 44.3 (2005): 175-215.

“Anti-Judaism and Care of the Poor in Aphrahat’s *Demonstration 20*,” *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 10.3 (2002): 305-327.

#### **ARTICLES IN EDITED VOLUMES**

“The Invention of the *Persian Martyr Acts*,” *Syriac Christian Culture: Beginnings to Renaissance*, ed. Aaron Butts and Robin Darling Young (Washington: The Catholic University of America Press, forthcoming 2020), 113-148.

“Names in Ferrous Water: Ritual and the Mediating Power of the Divine Name in Narsai’s *Mēmre*,” in *Narsai: Rethinking his Work and his World* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, FORTHCOMING 2020), 25-40.

“Syriac Anti-Judaism: Polemic and Internal Critique,” in *Jews and Syriac Christians: Intersections across the First Millennium*, ed. Aaron Butts and Simcha Gross (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2020), 47-66.

“Mar Addai Scher and the Recovery of East Syrian Scholastic Culture,” in *Griechische Wissenschaft und Philosophie bei den Ostsyrern: Zum Gedenken an Mār Addai Scher (1867-1915)*, ed. Matthias Perkams and Alexander M. Schilling (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2020), 13-28.

“L’antijudaïsme syriaque: entre polémique et critique interne,” in *Les controverses religieuses en syriaque*, ed. Flavia Ruani (Paris: Geuthner, 2016), 181-207.

“Augustine’s *Confessions*,” in *Cambridge Companion to Autobiography*, ed. Maria diBattista and Emily O. Wittman (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 23-34.

“Political Theology and Religious Diversity in the Sasanian Empire,” in *Jews, Christians, and Zoroastrians: Religious Dynamics in a Sasanian Context*, ed. Geoffrey Herman (Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias, 2014), 7-25.

“Polishing the Mirror: Some Thoughts on Syriac Sources and Early Judaism,” in *Envisioning Judaism: Studies in Honor of Peter Schäfer on the Occasion of his Seventieth Birthday*, ed. Ra‘anan Boustan et al. (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2013), 2: 897-915.

“Christian Society,” in *Oxford Handbook of Social Relations in the Roman World*, ed. Michael Peachin (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011), 567-86.

“The Ancient Near East in the Late Antique Near East: Syriac Christian Appropriation of the Biblical Past,” in *Antiquity in Antiquity: Jewish and Christian Pasts in the Greco-Roman World*, ed. Gregg Gardner and Kevin Osterloh (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2008), 394-415.

“The Ancient Near East in the Late Antique Near East” will be reprinted in: Barbara Roggema, ed., *Communal Identity and Self-Portrayal in the Worlds of Eastern Christianity, 300-1500* (Aldershot, Hampshire: Ashgate Variorum, March 2016).

“The Dynamic Reception of Theodore of Mopsuestia in the Sixth Century: Greek, Syriac, and Latin,” in *Greek Literature in Late Antiquity: Dynamism, Didacticism, Classicism*, ed. Scott Fitzgerald Johnson (Aldershot, Hampshire: Ashgate, 2006), 29-47.

“Bringing the Heavenly Academy Down to Earth: Approaches to the Imagery of Divine Pedagogy in the East-Syrian Tradition,” in *Heavenly Realms and Earthly Realities in Late Antique Religions*, ed. Ra‘anan Boustan and Annette Yoshiko Reed (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004), 174-191.

“Beyond the Spatial and Temporal Limes: Questioning the ‘Parting of the Ways’ Outside the Roman Empire,” in *The Ways That Never Parted: Jews and Christians in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages*, ed. Adam H. Becker and Annette Yoshiko Reed (Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2003); reprinted in paperback with a new preface (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 2007), 373-92.

“Beyond the Spatial and Temporal Limes: Questioning the ‘Parting of the Ways’ Outside the Roman Empire,” in *The Ways That Never Parted*, ed. Adam H. Becker and Annette Yoshiko Reed (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2003); (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 2007), 373-92.

### ***TOOLS/COMMENTARIES ON TEXTS***

Translations of Narsai’s Metrical Homilies *On Lent I, On Lent III, On Lent IV, On Reproof, On Lent V, On Reproof of the Clergy*, and *On Reproof* for translation of collected works of Narsai (FORTHCOMING).

Introduction, Text, and Translation of “The Canons of the Synod of Mar George of 676,” *Conciliorum Oecumenicorum Generaliumque Decreta* (COGD) (FORTHCOMING 2020).

Annotated Translation of and Introduction to 2 Baruch for *Outside the Bible: Ancient Jewish Writings Related to Scripture*, ed. Louis Feldman, James Kugel, and Lawrence Schiffman (Jewish Publication Society; Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2013), Vol. 2: 1565-1585.

New edition of the Greek and Syriac fragments of “Bardesanes,” including biographical essay and commentary in *Brill’s New Jacoby: Fragments of Greek Historians*, ed. Ian Worthington (Leiden: Brill, 2006 [CD-ROM and online version]).

### **GENERAL EDITORSHIP**

Development and editing of a series of texts with translations and commentary of the *Persian Martyr Acts in Syriac* with Gorgias Press, the primary American publisher in Syriac Studies. Six volumes have appeared (2008, 2013, 2014, 2014, 2016, 2016), and three are forthcoming.

Editorial Board, *Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies*, 2012-

Consulting Editor on Assyrian issues for *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, 2018-

### **BOOK REVIEWS, ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLES, AND MINOR PUBLICATIONS**

Françoise Briquel Chatonnet and Muriel Debié, eds., *Manuscripta Syriaca. Des source de première main. Cahiers d’études syriaques 4*. Paris: Geuthner, 2015 in *Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies* 20.1 (2017): 338-341.

<http://www.bethmardutho.org/index.php/hugoye/volume-index/686.html>

Christine Leigh Heyrman, *American Apostles: When Evangelicals Entered the World of Islam* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2015) in *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 85 (2017): 277-80.

Scott Fitzgerald Johnson, *Literary Territories: Cartographical Thinking in Late Antiquity* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016) in *Classical World* 110.2 (2017): 289-90.

Fergus Millar, *Religion, Language, and Community in the Roman Near East: Constantine to Muhammad* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013) in *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 25 (2017): 321-322.

Interview on “Assyrians, Evangelicals, and Borderland Nationalism,” Episode 301, *Ottoman History Podcast* (<http://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/2017/02/becker.html>) (2017)

Interview on *Revival and Awakening* (2015) on *Religion in American History Blog*:  
<http://usreligion.blogspot.com/2015/05/interview-with-adam-h-becker-author-of.html>

“Assyrian Christians and the ISIS Assault on the Remains of Nineveh,” *Informed Comment: Thoughts on the Middle East, History and Religion* (<http://www.juancole.com/2015/03/assyrian-christians-remains.html>).

“Excerpt: *Revival and Awakening: American Evangelical Missionaries in Iran and the Origins of Assyrian Nationalism*,” in *The Revealer: a daily review of religion and the press*, Mar. 27, 2015 (<http://therevealer.org/archives/19990>).

“The Book that Killeth and the Book that Giveth Life: The Spirit of 2 Corinthians 3:6 in the Nineteenth-Century Missionary Encounter,” *Material Religion: The Journal of Objects, Art, and Belief* 10:4 (Dec. 2014): 515-518.

“Athanasius of Balad,” “Assyrian Christians,” in *Encyclopedia of Islam*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, edited by Kate Fleet et al. (Leiden: Brill, 2009 and 2013), 155 and 31-32.

Carol Bakhos and M. Rahim Shayegan, eds., *The Talmud in Its Iranian Context* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2010) in *Hebrew Studies* 53 (2012): 410-412.

Naomi Koltun-Fromm, *Hermeneutics of Holiness: Ancient Jewish and Christian Notions of Sexuality and Religious Community* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010) in *Shofar* 31.2 (2012): 149-151.

“School of Edessa (the Persians),” “School of Nisibis,” “Barhadbeshabba Arbaya” (with Jeff W. Childers), “Barsauma of Nisibis,” and “Thomas of Edessa,” in *Encyclopedic Dictionary of the Syriac Heritage*, edited by Sebastian Brock et al. (Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2011).

“Flaunting Malignant Brilliance: a review of Yael Hersonski’s *A Film Unfinished* (2010),” in *The Revealer: a daily review of religion and the press*, Sept. 21, 2010 (<http://therevealer.org/archives/4852>).

Kim Bowes, *Private Worship, Public Values, and Religious Change in Late Antiquity* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008), in *Classical World* 104 (2010): 115-116.

Christine Shepardson, *Anti-Judaism and Christian Orthodoxy: Ephrem’s Hymns in Fourth-Century Syria* (Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University Press, 2008), in *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 17 (2009): 477-8.

Oskar Skarsaune and Reidar Hvalvik, eds., *Jewish Believers in Jesus: The Early Centuries* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2007) in *Biblical Theology Bulletin* 39:1 (2009): 45-47.

Review Essay of three reprints from Gorgias Press: Bede Griffiths, *The Book of Common Prayer [shhimo] of the Syrian Church* (Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2005); A.S. Lewis and M.D. Gibson, *Palestinian Syriac Texts: From Palimpsest Fragments in the Taylor-Schechter Collection*; Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2005); Sebastian P. Brock, *The Wisdom of St. Isaac of Nineveh* (Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2006), in *Henoah: Historical and Philological Studies on Judaism* 30 (2008): 169-74.

Anthony Kaldellis, *Procopius of Caesarea: Tyranny, History, and Philosophy at the End of Antiquity* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004) in *Classical World* 100.2 (Winter 2007): 176-77.

Maribel Dietz, *Wandering Monks, Virgins, and Pilgrims: Ascetic Travel in the Mediterranean World, A.D. 300-800* (University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2005) in *Speculum* 81.4 (2006): 1180-81.

Tomas Hägg and Bo Utas, *The Virgin and her Lover: Fragments of an Ancient Greek Novel and a Persian Epic Poem. Brill Studies in Middle Eastern Literatures, Supplements to the Journal of Arabic Literature*, vol. 30. Leiden, Brill, 2003 in *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/bmcr/2006/2006-05-05.html>).

“What Has Anything Got to Do with the Holocaust?” *The Revealer: a daily review of religion and the press*, Mar. 15, 2006 ([www.therevealer.org](http://www.therevealer.org)).

“Apologetic Islam,” a review of Natana J. Delong-Bas, *Wahhabi Islam: From Revival and Reform to Global Jihad* (2004) in *The Revealer: a daily review of religion and the press*, Nov. 29, 2004 ([www.therevealer.org](http://www.therevealer.org)).

“The Second Coming of *Dawn of the Dead*,” *The Revealer: a daily review of religion and the press*, April 12, 2004 ([www.therevealer.org](http://www.therevealer.org)).

Stephen J. Shoemaker, *Ancient Traditions of the Virgin Mary’s Dormition and Assumption* (2002) in *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/bmcr/2004/2004-01-07.html>).

Dick Davis, *Panthea’s Children: Hellenistic Novels and Medieval Persian Romances* (2002) in *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/bmcr/2003/2003-09-02.html>).

Theresa Urbainczyk, *Theodoret of Cyrrhus: The Bishop and the Holy Man* (2002) in *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/bmcr/2003/2003-02-19.html>).

William E. Arnal, *Jesus and the Village Scribes: Galilean Conflicts and the Setting of Q* (2001) in *Koinonia Journal* XIV.1 (Spring 2002): 73-76.

Marianne Palmer Bonz, *The Past As Legacy: Luke-Acts and Ancient Epic* (2000) in *Koinonia Journal* XIII.1 (Spring 2001): 61-63.

Paula Fredriksen, *Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews: A Jewish Life and the Emergence of Christianity* (1999) in *Koinonia Journal* XII.2 (Fall 2000): 274-6.

Identification of Syriac mosaic and translation of its text in *Christies Catalogue: Antiquities*, December 1999 (with Michael Rand).

Translation of dialogues into Latin in Michael Crichton, *Timeline* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1999). (Uncredited)

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“The ‘Nazarenes’ in the *Persian Martyr Acts*,” Society of Biblical Literature, annual conference November 2019

“The Manuscript Tradition of the Isaacs of Antioch,” North American Syriac Symposium, Brown University, June 17, 2019.

“Empire, Imperial Engines, and the Raw Material of the Theory of Religion: A Non-Colonial Missionary Perspective,” American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, November 2015.

“The Persian Martyr Acts: A Survey of the Sources for the Study of Babylonian Judaism,” Association of Jewish Studies Annual Conference, Baltimore, December 15, 2014.

“Pearl Diving and Mar Awgen’s Vision of the Chariot,” *Ancient Judaism and Christianity in Formation and Transformation: A Conference in Honor of Peter Schäfer*, Religion Department, Princeton University, May 19, 2013.

Summary Remarks, *Matters of Contention: Relics and Other Sacred Objects at the Crossroads of Religious Traditions*, University of Texas, Austin, April 23-24, 2012.

Summary Remarks, *The Divine Courtroom in Comparative Perspective*, Yeshiva University's Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, February 5-6, 2012.

"Retrieving the Ruins of Nineveh: Archeology, Orientalizing Autoethnography, and the Idea of Syriac Literature," North American Syriac Symposium VI, Durham, North Carolina, June 27, 2011.

"Political Theology and Religious Diversity in the Sasanian Empire," History and Literature of Early Rabbinic Judaism Section, Society of Biblical Literature, annual conference, Nov 20-24, 2009.

"Blood is Seed: Martyrdom and the Fracture of Ancient Political Theology," *Legitimizing Violence: Execution, Human Sacrifice, Assassination*, The NYU Center for Ancient Studies, Annual Ranieri Colloquium on Ancient Studies, Sept. 25, 2009.

"The Limits of the Fear of God: Mazdaist Expertise and Knowledge in the Persian Martyr Acts," Invited Lecture, *Jewish and Other Imperial Cultures in Late Antiquity*, Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, April 29-May 1, 2008.

"Ethno-Religious Identity among Modern Syriac Christians: Assyrianism and the Church of the East," *The Politics of Religion-Making*, Hofstra University, Oct. 4-6, 2007

"The Ancient Near East in the Late Antique Near East: Syriac Christian Appropriation of the Biblical Past," *Antiquity in Antiquity: Jewish and Christian Pasts in the Greco-Roman World*, Colloquium sponsored by the Religion Department of Princeton University, January 2006.

"A Prolegomenon to the Comparative Study of the Rabbinic Academies and the East-Syrian Schools," The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, December 18-20, 2005.

"Religious Witness: the intimate, the everyday, the world," Session I: The Holy Land Experience, *Other Holy Lands, Other Experiences*, panelist, New York University, May 6, 2004.

Moderator of Session I, "Mediating the Life of Jesus," "Who Owns the Passion?" Center for Religion and Media, New York University, March 12, 2004.

"Devotional Study: The School of Nisibis within East-Syrian Monasticism," North American Syriac Symposium IV: *Syriac Christianity, Culture at the Crossroads*, Princeton Theological Seminary, July 11, 2003.

"The School of Nisibis: School, Monastery, or Tertium Quid?" Late Antiquity in Interdisciplinary Perspective section (Social History of Monasticism), Society of Biblical Literature, annual conference, Toronto, Nov 25, 2002.

"The School of Edessa: A Reassessment of the Evidence," North American Patristics Society, annual conference, May 25, 2002.

"The Discourse on Priesthood (BL Add 18295 137b-140b): Still Parting Ways in the Early Islamic Period," *The Ways That Never Parted*, Colloquium sponsored by the Religion Department of Princeton University, January 10, 2002.

“Neoplatonic Influence on the Heavenly Classroom in the East Syrian Tradition,” Early Jewish and Christian Mysticism section (Angelology and the Heavenly World), Society of Biblical Literature, annual conference, Denver, CO, November 19, 2001.

“Bringing the Heavenly Academy Down to Earth: Approaches to the Imagery of Divine Pedagogy in the East-Syrian Tradition,” *“In Heaven as it is on Earth”: Imagined Realms and Earthly Realities in Late Antique Religions*, Colloquium sponsored by the Religion Department of Princeton University, January 15, 2001.

### **INVITED LECTURES AND SEMINARS**

“The Pre-Global Global Going Global: The Case of the Church of the East,” *Global Christianities 2019*, Divinity School, University of Chicago, May 2, 2019.

“Names in Fervent Water: Ritual and the Mediating Power of the Divine Name in Narsai’s *Mēmre*,” *Narsai: Rethinking his Work and his World*, Brigham Young University, June 22-23, 2017.

“Jewish-Christian Relations and the Syriac Sources for Jewish History,” *Why Syriac Matters*, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ February 24, 2017.

“Judaism, Christianity, and the Origins of Religion in Late Antiquity,” co-speaker with Annette Y. Reed, Department of Theology, Fordham University, November 29, 2016.

“What is Syriac Christian Tradition? (Is it any of the three?),” Keynote speaker, Dorushe Graduate Conference in Syriac Studies, Brown University, May 8-9, 2016.

“Syriac Anti-Judaism: Polemic and Internal Critique,” Invited lecture, Colloquium on polemics in Syriac literature, Paris, November 2015.

“The Invention of the *Persian Martyr Acts*,” Invited plenary lecture, *North American Syriac Symposium*, Catholic University of America, June 23, 2015.

“Mar Addai Scher and the Recovery of East Syrian Scholastic Culture,” *Griechische Wissenschaft und Philosophie bei den Ostsyrern: Internationale Tagung aus Anlass des 100. Todestags von Mar Addai Scher*, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, June 11, 2015.

“‘Yes, We are Syrians’: National Contestation and Evangelical Consciousness in a Neo-Aramaic Travelogue from 19th-century Hakkari,” *Ottoman Studies Lecture Series*, Kevorkian Center, New York University, April 2, 2015.

“Lenten Homilies, the ‘Evil Inclination’ of the Jews, and the Anthropology of Envy in Late Antique Mesopotamia,” Department of Religious Studies, University of Southern California, January 28, 2014 and Department of Religious Studies, Duke University, February 19, 2015.

Invited editorial work on Syriac translations for an edited Cambridge edition of Early Christian texts, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, March 10-12, 2014.

“Books, Wonder, and Exchange: American Evangelicals in Nineteenth Century Iran,” University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, March 10, 2014.



“Books, Wonder, and Exchange: American Evangelicals in Nineteenth Century Iran,” Scholars Lecture Series, College of Arts and Science, New York University, Nov. 20, 2013.

Seminar Leader, “Martyrdom in a Comparative Perspective: Ancient and Modern,” “Cultures of Performance in the Post-Classical Mediterranean,” Mellon Graduate Student Workshop, Brown University, Oct. 17, 2013.

Seminar Leader, “Paul on the Law and Jewish Identity,” Invited, Fellowship for Jewish Law and the Humanities, 2011-2012 seminar, “Law, Identity, and Solidarity,” Yeshiva University’s Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization at Cardozo Law School, March 2, 2012.

“Death, the Maiden, and Dreams of Revival: Protestant Reform and the Cult of the Dead in 19th-Century Urmia, Iran,” Research Workshop, Kevorkian Center, New York University, Feb. 28, 2011 and presentation repeated Department of Religion, Princeton University, April 13, 2011.

“Religion and Identity on the Fringes of the Ancient World: A Conversation,” co-speaker, History Department, UCLA, November 30, 2010.

“Books, Wonder, and Exchange: American Protestants in 19th-Century Iran,” Center for the Study of Religion, UCLA, November 29, 2010.

“Scholastic Epistemology and Ritualized Study in the Church of the East,” Seminar für Arabistik, Freie Universität, Berlin, June 24, 2010.

“Syriac Christian Schools in Late Antique Iraq,” *Christianity in Iraq VI Seminar Day*, School of Oriental and African Studies, London, Apr. 25, 2009.

“Books, Study, and Authority at the School of Nisibis,” *Paideia and Scripture: The Transformation of Religious Knowledge in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages (200 to 900 CE)*, Institute of Advanced Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, July 20-25, 2008.

“Scholastic Epistemology and Ritualized Study in the Church of the East,” Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University, Feb. 4, 2008.

“Jacob and Esau in the Classroom: Toward a Comparative Study of East-Syrian Schools and Rabbinic Academies,” November 29, 2007, The Center for the Study of Early Christianity, The Department of Semitic and Egyptian Languages and Literatures, Catholic University of America, including a separate session with graduate students the following day to discuss my book, *Fear of God and the Beginning of Wisdom*.

“Syriac Christian identity vis-à-vis Greek Culture in the Pre-Islamic Period,” Shu‘ūbiyya Colloquium held at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, Participant and Speaker, May 1-3, 2006.

“Ritualized Study as Christian Devotional Practice in Late Antique Mesopotamia,” Department of Classics and Program in Religious Studies at NYU, March 2005.

“Junillus Africanus, Theodore of Mopsuestia, and the ‘Theodorism’ of the Sixth Century,” Conference on Greek Literature in Late Antiquity, sponsored by the Oxford Byzantine Society, Invited Paper, June 5, 2004.

“The Reception of Aristotle in Late Antique Mesopotamia,” Lunchtime Talk, Department of Classics, NYU, April 10, 2003.

***WORKSHOPS, PANELS, AND PUBLIC TALKS***

Session Respondent, Regional Seminar in Ancient Judaism, NYU, Mar 5, 2017.

Discussion of my work and Syriac Studies in general, Syriac Summer School, Beth Mardutho: The Syriac Institute, Piscataway, NJ, Aug. 15, 2014.

“Lenten Homilies, the ‘Evil Inclination’ of the Jews, and the Anthropology of Envy in Late Antique Mesopotamia,” *The Talmud Blog* public event, Jerusalem, May 15, 2014.

Discussion of Augustine’s *Confessions* for instructors of “Literature Humanities,” at Columbia College, Columbia University, Feb. 6, 2013.

Panelist, “Methodological Considerations for the Study of the Babylonian Talmud in Light of Syriac and Middle Persian Source,” History and Literature of Early Rabbinic Judaism Section, Society of Biblical Literature, annual conference, November 22, 2011.

Panelist, “‘Oriental Studies’ after ‘Orientalism’,” Panelist, Oriental Club of Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania, Feb. 19, 2009.

Discussion of New Testament for instructors in “Conversations of the West,” NYU Morse Academic Plan, Sept. 15, 2008.

Discussion of Augustine’s *City of God* for instructors of “Contemporary Civilization,” at Columbia College, Columbia University, Oct. 9, 2007.

Discussion of Paul and Luke-Acts for instructors in “Conversations of the West,” NYU Morse Academic Plan, Sept. 12, 2005.

“Ethno-Religious Identity among Modern Syriac Christians,” Secularism Working Group, Center for Religion and Media, February 16, 2007.

“The Aphrodisias Inscription and Jewish-Christian-Gentiles Relations in Asia Minor,” Lecture for Adult Education at Grace Church, New York, NY, April 24, 2005.

Moderator of Session IV, “Never Parting Ways,” *Making Selves and Marking Others: Heresy and Self Definition in Late Antiquity*, Colloquium sponsored by the Religion Department of Princeton University, January 16-18, 2005.

Discussion of Augustine’s *Confessions* for instructors in “Conversations of the West,” NYU Morse Academic Plan, Oct. 4, 2004.

“Scholastic as Social Type in Late Antique Mesopotamia,” Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University, April 12, 2002.

“On Missing Posters and Memorials in Lower Manhattan after the WTC Attack,” paper and slide presentation, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University, Sept 28, 2001.

Panelist, “The Practice of New Methodologies in Medieval Studies,” Graduate Student Conference, “Encounters between Elites and Non-Elites in the Middle Ages, 400-1400: The Challenge of New Methodologies,” Princeton University, April 1, 2000.

“‘Don’t be such a Jew!’ Anti-Judaism and Care of the Poor in Aphrahat’s *Demonstration 20*,” Princeton Program in the Ancient World Graduate Seminar, Spring 2000.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Academy of Religion

American Association of University Professors

New York Classical Club

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS**

- Straus Fellowship, Straus Institute for the Advanced Study of Law and Justice, New York University School of Law, 2011-2012.
- Stewart Fellowship, Religion Department, Princeton University, 2011.
- Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship in Jewish Studies 2002-3, sponsored by the National Foundation for Jewish Culture.
- Center for the Study of Religion Dissertation Fellow, Princeton University, 2001-2.
- The Earle Prize in Classics for excellence in sight translation of passages in Greek and Latin, Columbia College, 1994
- The Jean Willard Tatlock Memorial Prize designated for the undergraduate student most proficient in Latin, Barnard College, 1994.

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

- FAS Faculty Senator, 2013- 2015 (Benefits/Housing and Governance Committees, 2013- 2015; Grievance Committee Fall 2014; Vice Chair of FAS Senators, Fall 2014)
- Director of the Religious Studies Program (Director, Director of Graduate Study, and Director of Undergraduate Study), 2008-2011, 2014-2016
- Acting Director of Graduate Study, Department of Religious Studies, Spring 2020
- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, College of Arts and Science 2008-2010
- FAS Grievance Committee, Spring 2020

## **COURSES TAUGHT AT NYU**

### ***Undergraduate Lectures***

- Engaging Early Christian Theology (Spring 2020, Fall 2018)
- Virgins, Martyrs, Monks, and Saints: Early Christianity (Fall 2020, Fall 2017)
- Core Curriculum: Texts and Ideas: Utopias and Dystopias (Fall 2014, Fall 2013)
- Introduction to the New Testament (Spring 2015, Spring 2011, Spring 2009, Spring 2007, Spring 2006)
- Martyrdom, Ancient and Modern (Spring 2013, Fall 2009, Fall 2006, Fall 2005, Fall 2003)
- Jews and Christians in the Ancient World (Spring 2005, Spring 2003)
- Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion (Fall 2012, Fall 2005, Fall 2004, Fall 2003, Spring 2002)
- Gender in Early Christianity (Spring 2004, Fall 2002)
- Early Christian Gnosticism (Fall 2002)

### ***Undergraduate Seminars***

- Antisemitism (Spring 2019)
- Religious Studies Senior Seminar: Political Theology and the Secular (Spring 2008)
- Religious Studies Senior Seminar: Religion, Ethnicity, Nationalism, and the Secular State (Spring 2007)
- Religious Studies Senior Seminar: “Magic” as a Category in the Study of Religion (Spring 2003)

### ***Graduate Seminars***

- Dissertation Proposal Workshop for Classics PhD Students (Fall-Spring 2020-2021)
- Augustine’s *Confessions* (Spring 2019)
- Martyrdom and Media (Spring 2018)
- Greek Prose Survey for Classics PhD Students (Spring 2020, Spring 2018)
- Tradition: Cultural and Literary Continuity over Time (Spring 2016)
- Topics in Syriac Literature I and II (Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 [at Yale])
- Secularism and Christianity (Fall 2013)
- Missions, Christianization, Secularization (Fall 2011)
- Political Theology and the Secular (Spring 2010)
- Introduction to Ancient Studies: Social Theory for Historians of the Ancient World (Fall 2008)
- Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion (Fall 2020, Fall 2012, Fall 2008, Fall 2004)
- Genres of Christian Greek Literature (Spring 2006)

### ***Language Courses***

- Advanced Greek: Plato’s *Protagoras* (Fall 2018)
- Intermediate Latin: Seneca (Fall 2017)
- Graduate: Second-Year Syriac reading course (Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 at Yale)
- Advanced Latin: Augustine’s *Confessions* (Fall 2015)
- Intermediate Greek: Homer (Spring 2013, Spring 2010)
- Graduate: Introduction to the Syriac Language (Spring 2011, Spring 2008, Spring 2004)
- Elementary Greek I & II (Fall 2006-Spring 2007)

### **PRIOR EXPERIENCE**

Teaching Assistant, Princeton University, Spring 1999: Jews, Christians, and Gentiles in the Ancient World (John Gager)

Teaching Assistant, Princeton University, Spring 1998: New Testament (Ross S. Kraemer)

Teaching Assistant, New York University, Spring 1997: Greco-Roman Mythology (Matthew Santirocco)

Instructor, New York University, Fall 1996: Intermediate Greek: Homer

Teaching Assistant, New York University, Fall 1995: Greek Tragedy (Gregory Sifakis)

Research Assistant, New York University, 1994-5: Greek Tragedy (Gregory Sifakis)

### **LANGUAGES**

Reading knowledge to differing degrees in Aramaic (various dialects, particularly Syriac), Ancient Greek, Latin, German, Turkish, Hebrew, French, and Arabic. Speaking ability to differing degrees in German (high school and college), Turkish (private tutors and audited course), Arabic (audited courses; private tutors, including study in Damascus, Summer 2006), North Eastern Neo-Aramaic (“Assyrian”) (private tutor), Modern Hebrew (Hebrew Ulpan at Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Summer 1998). I have a (dormant) knowledge from past study of Italian (college), modern Persian (private tutor), and Coptic (self-taught), and I studied Middle Persian for a while. I studied Classical Armenian daily 2015-2016 but put it down.

## **OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

Invited Regular Participant, “Christian Media, Old and New,” Center for Religion and Media, NYU, 2004-5, and “Secularism, Religious Authority, and the Mediation of Knowledge,” 2006-7.

Co-organizer of “The Ways That Never Parted: Jews and Christians from Late Antiquity to the Early Middle Ages.” co-organization of a biweekly workshop (Fall 2001) that concluded with a colloquium (January 9-11, 2002) featuring invited scholars from other institutions. See

[http://www.princeton.edu/religion/conference\\_sites/ways/](http://www.princeton.edu/religion/conference_sites/ways/)

Editor for New Testament, *Koinonia* (the graduate student journal of Princeton Theological Seminary), 2000–2002.

Tutoring in Latin and Greek as a graduate student.

Extensive travel in the Middle East, including several months residence in Syria, Israel, and Turkey.

## **REFERENCES**

- Sebastian P. Brock, Retired, formerly Reader in Syriac Studies, The Oriental Institute, Oxford University
- Peter R. L. Brown, Emeritus Professor of History, Princeton University
- Elizabeth A. Castelli, Ann Whitney Olin Professor of Religion, Barnard College, Columbia University
- John G. Gager, Emeritus Professor of Religion, Princeton University
- Susan Ashbrook Harvey, Willard Prescott and Annie McClelland Smith Professor of History and Religion
- Jeffrey L. Rubenstein, Skirball Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics, Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, New York University
- Peter Schaefer, formerly Ronald O. Perelman Professor of Jewish Studies and Professor of Religion, Princeton University

## **SUPERVISION OF THESES AND DISSERTATIONS**

### **PhD Thesis Committees**

Currently committee member for one student in Middle East and Islamic Studies and one in Classics and primary advisor for one in Classics

- Zachary Ugolnik, “The Mirror of Glory: Sense and Subjectivity in Near Eastern Mysticism” Religion, Columbia University (2018)
- Calloway Scott, “Askelpios on the Move: Health, Healing, and Cult in Classical Greece,” Classics, NYU (2017)
- Matthew Goldstone, “Remove the Beam from Your Own Eye!: The Dynamic of Rebuke in Ancient Jewish and Christian Traditions,” Hebrew and Judaic Studies, NYU (2017)
- Outside Reader: James E. Walters, “Aphrahat and the Construction of Christian Identity in Fourth-Century Persia,” Princeton Theological Seminary (2016).
- Outside Reader: Jeffrey Garcia, “Creation, Composition and Condition: On Being Human in Early Judaism,” Hebrew and Judaic Studies, NYU (2016)
- Agnes Veto, “Rabbinic Conceptualization of the Male Body as Reflected in the Halakhic System of Male Genital Emissions” Hebrew and Judaic Studies, NYU (2015)
- Primary Thesis Advisor for Brett Wisniewski, “Casting Spells in Augustan Poetry: Magic, Song, and Discourses of Power,” Classics, NYU (2015)

- Outside Reader: Todd French, “Just Deserts: Losing Origen and Gaining Retributive Judgement in the Hagiographical Literature of the Early Byzantine World,” Department of Religion, Columbia University (2013)
- Todd Berzon, “Classifying Christians: Ethnography, Discovery, and the Limits of Knowledge in Late Antiquity,” Religion, Columbia University (2013)
- Lev Weitz, “The Medieval Islamic World and Syriac Christians: Family, Law, and Society,” Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University (2013)
- Outside Reader: Ari Mermelstein, “The Genesis of Jewish History: Creation, Covenant, and Historical Consciousness in the Wisdom of Ben Sira and the Book of Jubilees,” Hebrew and Judaic Studies, NYU (2011)
- Outsider Reader: Ryan Dulkan, “The Rabbis Reading Eden: A Traditions-Historic Study of Exegetical Motifs in the Classical and Selected Post-Classical Rabbinic Sources on Genesis 1-3,” Jewish Theological Seminary (2011)
- Ian Lockey, “The Atrium House at Aphrodisias, Caria,” Classics, NYU (2010).
- Outside Reader: Paul Sedra, “Textbook Maneuvers: Evangelicals and Educational Reform in Nineteenth-Century Egypt,” Middle East and Islamic Studies, NYU (2005)
- Outside Reader: Abed el-Rahman Tayyara, “Non-Islamic Cultures as Reflected in Early Islamic Universal Histories,” Middle East and Islamic Studies, NYU (2005)

### **Masters Theses**

- Natalya Titova, “Evaluating the Plausibility of Nancy Eiesland’s Presentation of the Post-Resurrection Jesus Christ as “the Disabled God” (2019).
- Madysen Luebke, “Sociality of Protestant Schisms: A Brooklyn Church;s Social Isolation from its Conservative Synod Creates a Non-Schismatic District” (2019) (secondary reader).
- Samuel Argyle, “What is Identitarian Religion? Counter-Memory, Power, and an Unmasked Other” (2018).
- Kathryn Newman, “From Virtual Jews to Shabbos Goyim: The Role of Gentiles in Krakow’s Jewish Revival” (2015) (secondary reader).
- Ethan Poe, “*The Mormon Worker*, Religious Dysphoria, and Internet Dissent: Building Communities of Empowerment in American Digital Religion” (2015).
- Andrew Walker-Cornetta, “Eugenic Feminism, Religion, and the Secular: Salvific Reproduction in the Works of Victoria Woodhull, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, and Margaret Sanger” (2014).
- Abigail Ohlheiser, “Anti-Islamic and American: The Anti-Sharia Movement” (2012).
- Seren Gates-Amador, “Screening the Apocalypse: Religion, Anxiety and Apocalyptic Genre Film” (2010).
- Ian Sundwall-Byers, “Diachronic and Synchronic Approaches to the Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs” (2009).
- Kathryn Dickason, “Beyond Diversion: Medieval Dance and the Embodied Creation of Meaning” (2008). (secondary reader).
- Lauren McCormick, “Gen. 2-3, the Adapa Myth, and Motivations for Divine Speech” (2008) (secondary reader).
- Rosanne Morici, “From Martyrdom to Suicide: Representing World War II in Soviet Cinema” (2004).

### **MA and PhD Exams Directed**

- Todd Berzon, Early Christianity, PhD Exam, Department of Religion, Columbia (2011)
- Betsy Williams, Late Antique Religion, PhD Exam, IFA, NYU (Fall 2009)
- Alexandra Frisch, Early Christianity, PhD minor area exam, Hebrew and Judaic Studies, NYU (Spring 2008)
- Manlin Chen, MA exam (2011)

- Noah Silverman, MA exam (2011)

### **Undergraduate Senior Theses**

- Jenny Weintritt, “Augustine, Virgil, and the Introspective Self” (2011-12)
- Jacob Albert, “Missions and Religion: Conversion, Secularization, and the Semiotic Form” (2008-9)
- Matthew Berkman, “On Secularism in the Modern Middle East” (2006-7)
- Bridget Purcell, “Islamism, the Christian Right, and Feminism: the Metadiscourse on Religion” (2005-6)
- Mark Stoholski, “Welcome to Heaven, Please Watch your Step - The ‘Mithras Liturgy’ and the Homeric Quotations in the Paris Papyrus” (2005) (Published in *Helios: a journal devoted to critical and methodological studies of classical culture, literature, and society* 34.1 [2007]).
- Ian Jackson, On post-colonial approaches to early Christian martyrdom and sexuality (2002)
- Outside reader: Lev Weitz, “Redefining Boundaries: Arabicization and Melkite Christian Communal Identity in Medieval Syro-Palestine” (2006)
- Advisor to Gallatin Student from Spring 2006 until her graduation and colloquium (Spring 2008).
- Gallatin Colloquium, “Judaism, Christianity, and the ‘Problem of the Other’” (Spring 2006)

### **DIRECTED STUDIES**

Organization and running of weekly Syriac reading groups 2004-2013. I continue to read Syriac and other sources with students but on a more informal basis.

### **Graduate Directed Study**

- Syriac Translation Literature and Theories of Translation (Spring 2016)
- Justin Martyr, *Dialogue with Trypho* (Spring 2009)
- Josephus’ *Against Apion* Reading Group (Fall 2008)
- Ethnicity in Second-Temple Judaism (esp. *Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs*) (Spring 2008)
- Plato, *Crito* (Summer 2008)
- Pseudo(?)–Albert the Great, *De laudibus beatae Mariae Virginis* (Spring 2007)
- Josephus, *Life* (Fall 2005)
- The Modern Reception of Early Christian “Gnostic” Texts (Spring 2003)
- Sexuality, Martyrdom, and Asceticism (Fall 2002)

### **Undergraduate Directed Study**

- Reading selections of New Testament with two undergraduates (Spring 2007)
- Readings on Jewish Cultural Studies related to an internship at *Heeb Magazine* (Fall 2006)
- Readings on Religion, Nationalism, and Ethnicity and Zionism (Spring 2006)
- Athanasius’s *Life of Antony* (Fall 2004) (one undergraduate and one graduate student)
- Themes in Latin Prose (Cicero, Sallust, and Livy) (Fall 2003)
- Augustine, *De Catechizandis Rudibus*, with literature on ancient education (Summer 2003)
- Sexuality, Martyrdom, and Asceticism (Spring 2003) (followed by Gallatin colloquium committee in the Spring 2003)