

Blake A. Hartung
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EDUCATION

Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO
M.A., Ph.D., Early Christianity (2011, 2017)

John Brown University, Siloam Springs, AR (2009)
B.A., History

EMPLOYMENT

2023-present Assistant Teaching Professor, School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies,
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

2019-2023 Instructor, School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies, Arizona State
University, Tempe, AZ

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

- Books* *Imagining the Death of Jesus in Fourth Century Mesopotamia: A Study of Ephrem of Nisibis* (Leiden: Brill, 2019).
St. Ephrem the Syrian: Songs for the Fast and Pascha (with Joshua Falconer and James E. Walters), Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press (2023).
- Articles* “The Collection and Transmission of Late Antique Liturgical Poetry: A Comparative Approach,” *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 28.3 (2021).
“The Authorship and Dating of Ephrem’s Syriac Corpus: A Reassessment,” *Zeitschrift für Antikes Christentum* 22.2 (2018): 296–321.
“The *Mêmrâ* on the Signs Moses Performed in Egypt: An Exegetical Homily of the School of Ephrem,” *Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies* 21.2 (2018): 319–356.
- Chapters* “The Significance of Astronomical and Calendrical Theories for Ephrem’s Interpretation of the Three Days of Jesus’ Death,” Aaron Michael Butts and Robin Darling Young, eds., *Syriac Christian Culture: Beginnings to Renaissance* (Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2021).
- Book Reviews* Review of Philip Michael Forness, *Preaching Christology in the Roman Near East: A Study of Jacob of Serugh*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018. *Studies in Late Antiquity* 6.2 (2022).
Review of Judith Lieu, *Marcion and the Making of a Heretic*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015. In *Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies* 22.1 (2019).
Review of Maria Doerfler et al., *Syriac Encounters: Papers from the Sixth North American Syriac Symposium, Duke University, 26-29 June 2011*. In *Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies* 21.1 (2018): 246–251.

WORKS IN PREPARATION

Essay contribution to *Prayer in the Ancient World: An Anthology* (forthcoming from Brill)
“Personification and Public Crises: Gender, Lament, and the City in Fourth-Century Roman Mesopotamia” (article in preparation)
Gnostic Anti-Judaism from Late Ancient Mesopotamia: Jews and Judaism in Mandaean Sources (article in preparation)

RECENT TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Full time: Arizona State University, 2019-present

Global History to 1500 (HST 100)
Religions of the World (REL 100)
Europe and the Mediterranean: Ancient and Medieval (HST 102)
Heretics, Saints, and Emperors: Christianity in the Ancient World (REL/HST 272)
Gods and Kings: Ancient Mesopotamia (HST 302)
New Testament (REL 371)
Roman History I: Foundations and Republic (HST 373)
Roman History II: Roman Empire (HST 374)
Readings in Ancient History: Religion in the Roman Empire (HST 598)

Adjunct: Kenrick-Glennon Seminary (2017–2019)

Greek I
Greek II
Readings in New Testament Greek
Latin I
Latin II

Adjunct: Saint Louis University

History of Christianity: The First Two Thousand Years
New Testament

SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

Swenson Family Fellowship in Eastern Christian Manuscript Studies, Hill Museum and Manuscript Library (May/June 2019)

Mellon Vatican Film Library Research Fellowship (August 2018)

Graduate Fellow, Abila Archaeological Project, Abila, Jordan (June/July 2016)

Brennan Dissertation Research Grant, Saint Louis University (May 2016)

Nijmeh Kiraz Award for best graduate student presentation, North American Syriac Symposium, Washington, D.C. (June 2015)

Graduate Fellow, Saint Louis University Culturally Responsive Teaching Academy (2015-2016)

SELECT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “City Laments in Syriac: Ephrem’s *Madrāšê on Nisibis* 1-12,” North American Syriac Symposium (June 2023), New Haven, CT
- “Marcionite Theology, Economic Imagery, and the Death of Jesus in Ephrem’s *Mêmre Against Marcion*,” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting (November 2022), Denver, CO.
- “Late Antique Performative Techniques and Feminine Characterization in the Hymns of Ephrem of Nisibis,” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting (November 2019), San Diego, CA.
- “The Prophet as Saint: Hagiography, Asceticism, and Veneration in Late Antique Syriac Homilies on Elijah,” North American Syriac Symposium (June 2019), Providence, RI.
- “The Collection and Transmission of Liturgical Poetry in Late Antiquity: Ephrem, Romanos, and Yannai,” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting (May 2018), Chicago, IL.
- “Navigating the Authorship and Dating of Ephrem's Syriac Corpus: A Guide for the Perplexed,” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting (May 2017), Chicago, IL.

INVITED TALKS

- “The Authorship and Dating of the Syriac Corpus attributed to Ephrem of Nisibis,” invited lecture for Marquette University PhD seminar (October 5, 2023)
- “Lost Civilizations? Ancient Aliens? An Ancient Historian Responds,” two-part public lecture for the Osher Lifetime Learning Institute at Arizona State University (September 21, 28, 2023)
- “Christianity in the Roman Empire,” public lecture for Arizona State University Jewish Studies (October 27, 2022)
- University of Notre Dame Medieval Institute Reading Group “Ordering Knowledge in Poems and Homilies in Late Antique Religions” (September 24, 2022)
- “Gods and Kings: Exploring Ancient Mesopotamia,” two-part public lecture for the Osher Lifetime Learning Institute at Arizona State University (March 21, 28, 2022)
- “Reading the Bible with Ancient Jews and Christians,” public lecture for Arizona State University Jewish Studies (February 1, 2022)
- “The Age of Constantine,” three-part public lecture for the Osher Lifetime Learning Institute at Arizona State University (October 5, 12, 19, 2021)
- “Religion in Ancient Rome,” three-part public lecture for the Osher Lifetime Learning Institute at Arizona State University (April 5, 12, 19, 2021)
- “Jews and Christians in Persia and the Rhetoric of Identity,” invited lecture at Saint Louis University “Judaism in Antiquity” Ph.D. seminar (March 21, 2018)

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE

Arizona State University

Global History to 1500 (HST 100): Universal Learners Course faculty lead course designer (2021-2022)

Search Committee: Universal Learners Online Course Manager (2023)

Barrett Honors student theses: Sydney Myers, Rita Barakat

LANGUAGES

Syriac, Greek, Latin, Hebrew, French

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

Society of Biblical Literature

North American Patristics Society

Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religion

North American Society for the Study of Christian Apocryphal Literature