

Jeffrey Wickes
Assistant Professor of Early Christianity
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EDUCATION

- 2013 Ph.D., Theology, University of Notre Dame
 Concentration: History of Christianity
 Minor area: Liturgy
- 2007 M.A., Early Christian Studies, University of Notre Dame
- 2005 M.A., Theology, Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary
- 2003 B.A., Philosophy and Religion, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga

OTHER STUDY

- 2004-2005 Classical Armenian, Saint Nersess Armenian Seminary

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2012-present Assistant Professor of Early Christianity, Department of Theological Studies,
Saint Louis University
- 2018-19 Director of Middle East Studies Minor, Saint Louis University
- 2018 Lecturer in Syriac language, Dumbarton Oaks and Hill Monastic Museum and Library.

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Collaborator (with Andrew Faulkner and Cillian O'Hogan), Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada Connection Grant, University of Waterloo, 2018.
- Swenson Family Fellowship in Eastern Christian Manuscript Studies, Hill Monastic Museum
And Library, Collegetown, MN, 2017.
- Reinert Innovative Teaching Fellowship, Reinert Center for Transformative Teaching and
Learning, Saint Louis University, 2016-17.

Nominee, Excellence Award in Graduate Mentoring, Saint Louis University, 2017.

Summer Fellow in Byzantine Studies, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collections, Washington, D.C., June 20-August 5, 2016.

Mellon Faculty Development Grant, Saint Louis University, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018.

Junior Fellow in Byzantine Studies, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, Washington, D.C., 2011-2012.

Dissertation Fellowship, Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fund, 2011-2014 (only accepted one year, 2011-12).

Nijmeh Kiraz Award for Graduate Best Student Presentation, North American Syriac Symposium, Duke University, 2011.

Finalist for the Eli J. and Helen Shaheen Graduate School Award in Humanities, University of Notre Dame, 2013.

Summer Travel Grant, Tantur Ecumenical Institute, Jerusalem, 2010.

Highest Honors, Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination, University of Notre Dame, 2010.

Doctoral Fellowship, Department of Theology, University of Notre Dame, 2007-2011.

J.A. O'Brien Fellowship, Department of Theology, University of Notre Dame, 2010-2011.

Graduate Student Fellowship, University of Notre Dame, 2005-2007.

RESEARCH

Books

Bible and Poetry in Late Antique Mesopotamia: Ephrem's Hymns on Faith. Christianity in Late Antiquity Series. Berkeley: University of California Press. Forthcoming, 2019.

St. Ephrem the Syrian: the Hymns on Faith. Fathers of the Church, Volume 130. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2015.

Edited Books

(with Kristian Heal) *Literature, Rhetoric, and Exegesis in Syriac Verse*. Fascicle in *Studia Patristica LXXV*. Leuven, Peeters: 2018.

Articles and Book Chapters

“Between Liturgy and School: Reassessing the Performative Context of Ephrem’s *Madrache*.” *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 26:1 (Spring, 2018), 25-51.

“Introduction,” in Kristian Heal and Jeffrey Wickes, eds., *Literature, Rhetoric, and Exegesis in Syriac Verse*. Peeters, forthcoming, 2017.

“Poetry and Hymnody.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Early Christian Biblical Interpretation*. Edited by Paul Blowers and Peter Martens. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Forthcoming, 2018.

“Mapping the Literary Landscape of Ephrem’s Theology of Divine Names,” *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 69 (2015), 1-13.

“The Poetics of Self-Presentation in Ephrem the Syrian’s *Hymns on Faith* 10,” in *Syriac Encounters: Papers presented at the Sixth North American Syriac Symposium, 2011*. Edited by Maria Doerfler, Emanuel Fiano, and Kyle Smith, 51-63. Leuven: Peeters, 2015.

“Ephrem’s Commentary on Genesis,” *St Vladimir’s Theological Quarterly* 52 (2008), 45-66.

In Process

“Grief, Imagination, and the Bible: Ephrem Graecus and Jacob of Serugh on Cain and Abel.” For a forthcoming volume on comparative late antique poetry.

“Liturgical Hymnody and the Cult of the Saints: Reading the Syriac *Madrache on Confessors*.” For a forthcoming volume on Modes of Knowing in Late Antiquity.

With Andrew Faulkner and Cillian O’Hogan, “Introduction,” in *Biblical Figures in Late Antique Poetry*.

With Andrew Faulkner and Cillian O’Hogan, editors, *Biblical Figures in Late Antique Poetry*. Currently under review with Catholic University of America Press.

With Laura Locke Estes, Blake Hartung, Tracy Russell, and Anna Williams, translators, “Narsai’s *Memre on Pentecost*,” for *The Collected Poems of Narsai*, Catholic University of America Press. Due to publisher Spring 2019.

Book Reviews

Review of Yonatan Moss, *Incorruptible Bodies: Christology, Society, and Authority in Late Antiquity in Body & Religion* (forthcoming).

Review of Christine Shepardson, *Anti-Judaism and Christian Orthodoxy: Ephrem’s Hymns in Fourth Century Syria* in *The Journal of Religion* 90:1 (2010): 81-83.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Jacob of Sarug and Yannai on the Tower of Babel,” with Ophir Münz-Manor, The Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Denver, CO, November, 2018.

“The Cult of the Saints and the Affective World of Fourth-Century Syriac Poetry,” Australian Catholic University Seminar on Modes of Knowing and the Ordering of Knowledge in Early Christianity, Rome, Italy, July, 2018.

“Cain and Abel in Late Antique Syriac Poetry,” Greek, Latin, Syriac, and Hebrew: a Cross-cultural Study of Early Christian Poetics, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, June, 2018.

“Narrating Holiness: Jacob of Sarug's Hagiographical Poems in the Context of the Sixth Century,” The Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Boston, MA, November, 2017.

“Literature in Liturgy: Reading Jacob of Sarug’s Hagiographical Poems in Context,” 43rd Annual Byzantine Studies Conference, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, October, 2017.

“Poetry and Devotion: Reading Jacob of Serugh’s *On the Forty Martyrs*,” The Annual Meeting of the North American Patristics Society, Chicago, IL, May 2017.

“Jacob of Sarug’s Poem on the 40 Martyrs and Late Ancient Syriac Translation Technique,” 113th Meeting of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, Kitchener, Ontario, April, 2017.

“Reassessing the Performative Context of Ephrem’s *Madrashe*,” 23rd International Congress of Byzantine Studies, Belgrade, Serbia, August, 2016.

“Performing Exegetical Poetry in Late Ancient Northern Mesopotamia,” The Annual Meeting of the North American Patristics Society, Chicago, IL, May 2016.

“The Performance of Ephrem’s *Madrashe* and the Syriac *Life of Ephrem*,” The 17th International Conference on Patristics Studies, University of Oxford, August 10-14, 2015.

“Ephrem’s Economic ‘I’ and the Problem of Early Byzantine Authorship,” 40th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, British Columbia, November, 2014.

“Ephrem and the Economics of Poetic Speech,” The Annual Meeting of the North American Patristics Society, Chicago, IL, May 2014.

“Ephrem’s Reading of Scriptural Narrative,” The Annual Meeting of the North American Patristics Society, Chicago, IL, May 2013.

“‘Borrowed’ Speech and the Scriptural Poetics of Ephrem’s *Hymns on Faith*,” 38th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Theological Seminary, Boston, MA, November, 2012.

“The Poetics of Villainization: Ephrem’s Reading of Ritual Transgression,” The Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, San Francisco, CA, November 19-22, 2011.

“The Poetics of Self-Representation in Ephrem’s *Hymns on Faith*,” Sixth North American Syriac Symposium, Duke University, June 26-29, 2011.

“The Ambivalent Role of the Byzantine Empire in Pseudo-Ephrem’s *Homily on the End*,” 33rd Annual Byzantine Studies Conference, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, October, 2007.

“The Literary Structure and Historical World Vision of Pseudo-Ephrem’s *Homily on the End*,” Dorushe Syriac Studies Conference, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, April 2007.

“The Relevance of a Chalcedonian/Non-Chalcedonian Distinction in Seventh-Century Northern Mesopotamia,” Pappas Patristics Conference, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Seminary, Brookline, MA, March 2006.

INVITED LECTURES AND TALKS

“Situating Ephrem among the Exegetes of Mesopotamian Late Antiquity,” Saint Ephrem the Syrian and his Spiritual Heritage, Saints Cyril and Methodius Institute of Postgraduate Studies of the Moscow Patriarchate, Moscow, Russia, April 26-30, 2017.

“Theology and Literature among Christians in the Middle East,” First Friday Mass and Speaker Series, Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, MO, March 3, 2017.

Respondent, Review Panel on David Michelson, *The Practical Christology of Philoxenus of Mabbug*, SBL, November 23, 2015, Atlanta, GA.

“In Search of Ephrem’s Audience,” Sacred Song in the Late Antique and Byzantine East: Comparative Explorations, Brown University, May 3-6, 2015.

“Ephrem’s Economic Self: Metaphors for the Moral Life,” Brigham Young University, Provo, UT. Lecture for the Center for the Preservation of Ancient Manuscripts. April, 2014.

“The Scriptural Poetics of Syriac Hymnody,” University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario. Co-sponsored by Departments of Classics and Religious Studies. March 15, 2013.

TEACHING

Literature and the Cult of the Saints in Late Antique Christianity (Spring, 2019).

Music, Poetry, and Religious Identity (Spring, 2017, 2018, Fall, 2017).

Jerusalem: Three Faiths, One City (Fall, 2015).

Christians in the Middle East (Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2014, 2015, 2016).

Women and Gender in Early Christianity (Fall, 2014).

Survey of Early Christianity (Fall, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018).

Ephrem and the Syriac Bible (Fall, 2014).

Theological Foundations (Fall 2012, 2018, Spring 2013, 2015, 2016).

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

Search Committee Member, Danforth Chair in Theology, Saint Louis University, 2018-19.

Director, Middle East Studies Minor, Saint Louis University, 2018-19.

Co-Director (with Luke Yarbrough), Middle East Studies Minor, Saint Louis University, 2017-18.

Committee Member, Graduate Studies Committee, Saint Louis University, 2016-present.

Committee Member, Middle East Studies Minor, Saint Louis University, 2013-present.

Committee Member, Search Committee for Director of Center for Digital Humanities, Saint Louis University, Spring, 2016.

Committee Member, Theological Studies Marketing Committee, Saint Louis University, 2014-2015.

Theology Advisor to Pius XII Memorial Library, Saint Louis University, 2015-present.

Committee Member, Ph.D. Studies Committee, Saint Louis University, 2012-2014.

Committee Member, M.A. Studies Committee, Saint Louis University, 2015-16.

Dissertation Director: Blake Hartung (defended 2017); Tracy Russell (2017-present); Laura Locke Estes (2018-present).

Dissertation Committees: Anna Williams (2018-present), Yvonne Angieri Klein (2016-present), Becky Walker (defended 2018), Adam Messer (defended 2018).

Dissertation Prospectus Committees: Andrew Chronister (2014), Chad Kim (2018), Zachary Kostopoulos (2014), Sarah White (2014).

MA Thesis Director: Caleb Little (2017-18); Robert Johnson (2017-18).

Undergraduate Capstone Advisor: Maria Bednar (2016-17); Zayna Abusada (2017-18).

Reader for Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams Saint Louis University, 2013-present.

Reader for M.A. Exams, Saint Louis University, 2013.

SERVICE TO THE FIELD

Co-Organizer (with Andrew Faulkner and Cillian O'Hogan), "Greek, Latin, Syriac, and Hebrew: a Cross-cultural Study of Early Christian Poetics, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, June, 2018.

Organizer, "Finding Late Antique Literature Between Poetry and Prose," Panel at the Annual Meeting of the North American Patristics Conference, Chicago, IL, May 25-27, 2017.

Co-Organizer (with Kristian Heal), "Exegesis in Syriac Verse," Panel at the The 17th International Conference on Patristics Studies, University of Oxford, August 10-14, 2015.

Co-Organizer (with Suzanne Abrams Rebillard), "The Self in Byzantine Poetry," Panel at the 40th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, British Columbia, November, 2014.

Director, Christianity in Antiquity Workshop, Saint Louis, MO, 2016-2017.

Steering Committee Member, Christianity in Antiquity Workshop, Saint Louis, MO, 2014-present.

Peer reviewer, *Hugoye: A Journal of Syriac Studies*, 2013, 2016; Gorgias Press, 2014.

Dorushe Syriac Studies Advisory Board, 2012-present.

Organizer, "Dorushe Graduate Student Syriac Conference," University of Notre Dame, April 2008.

LANGUAGES

Syriac, Classical Greek, Biblical Aramaic, Classical Armenian, Classical Arabic, Hebrew, Latin, French, German, Spanish

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

North American Patristics Society
American Academy of Religion

Society of Biblical Literature
Byzantine Studies Association of North America
The Classical Association of the Middle West and South