

Jeffrey Wickes
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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 Language, Saint Nersess Armenian Seminary, New Rochelle, NY

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2021-present Associate Professor (with tenure) of Theology, Department of Theology, University of Notre Dame
- 2022-present Faculty Fellow, Medieval Institute, University of Notre Dame
- 2019-2021 Associate Professor (with tenure) of Early Christianity, Department of Theological Studies, Saint Louis University
- 2013-2019 Assistant Professor of Early Christianity, Department of Theological Studies, Saint Louis University
- 2012-2013 Instructor of Theology, Department of Theological Studies, Saint Louis University
- 2018 Lecturer in Syriac language, Dumbarton Oaks/Harvard University and Hill Monastic Museum and Library

HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, 2021-2022.

Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, Notre Dame, Indexing Grant, 2021.

Foley Endowed Chair Conference Grant (with Mary Dunn and Leonard McKinnis), Department of Theological Studies, Saint Louis University (conference funded in 2019, to be hosted in 2021).

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, Harvard University, Washington, D.C., June 20-August 5, 2016.

Mellon Faculty Development Grant, Saint Louis University, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021.

Junior Fellow in Byzantine Studies, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, Harvard University, 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.

Nominee, 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

Monographs and Book-Length Translations

Bible and Poetry in Late Antique Mesopotamia: Ephrem's Hymns on Faith. Christianity in Late Antiquity Series 5. Berkeley: University of California Press, 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 Andrew Faulkner and Cillian O'Hogan, *Genesis in Late Antique Poetry*. Early Christian Studies series. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2022.

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

With Patout Burns, Joseph Wilson, and Robin Darling Young, *Theological Anthropology*. Sources of Early Christian Thought Series. Revised with new Greek and Syriac translations. Fortress Press. In Proofs.

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

"Jacob of Serugh, the *Memra*, and the Affective Sway of the Fortieth Martyr's Mother" in *Preaching in the Syriac Tradition: Reassessing the Homiletical Genre in Late Antique Syriac Literature*. Edited by Philip Forness and James Walters, Leiden: Brill (delivered to editors July 2021).

"Performance, Relic, Poem in Ephrem's Hymns on Saints," in *Performance and Performativity in Late Antiquity, Byzantium, and Beyond*. Edited by Niki Tsironis, Washington, D.C.: Center for Hellenic Studies / Harvard University Press (delivered to editor May 2021).

"Imagining Ephrem the Author," in *The Intellectual World of Christian Late Antiquity: Reshaping the Classical Tradition, 100 - 600 CE*. Edited by Lewis Ayres, Matthew Crawford, and Michael Champion. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Forthcoming 2023.

“You Have Broken Me, Cain’: The Piety of Sorrow in Jacob’s Poems on Cain and Abel.” In *Genesis in Late Antique Verse*, edited by Andrew Faulkner, Cillian O’Hogan, and Jeffrey Wickes. Early Christian Studies series. Washington, D.C: Catholic University of America Press, 2022.

“Poetry and Hymnody.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Early Christian Biblical Interpretation*. Edited by Paul Blowers and Peter Martens, 255-270. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019.

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

“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.

Translations in Edited Volumes

“Ephrem’s *Madrache Against Heresies* 3 and 54,” in James E. Walters, ed., *Eastern Christianity: A Reader*, 36-43, Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2021.

With Laura Locke Estes, Blake Hartung, Tracy Russell, and Anna Williams, translators, “Narsai’s *Memra on Pentecost*,” in *The Collected Poems of Narsai*, Aaron Butts, Kristian Heal, and Robert Kitchen, editors. Fathers of the Church series. Catholic University of America Press. Translation submitted to editors. Expected date of publication: 2021.

Research in Progress

With Philip M. Forness, *Jacob of Serugh’s Homiletic Poems on Cain and Abel*. SVS Popular Patristics Series. Due to Publisher February 2023.

Poems and Other Things: Agency, Affect, Ritual in Syriac Poems on Saints. Monograph. Expected completion date: 2024.

Book Reviews

Ute Possek and J.F. Coakley, *Thomas of Edessa’s Explanations of the Nativity and Epiphany* in *Studies in Late Antiquity* (forthcoming).

Maria E. Doerfler, *Jephthah’s Daughter, Sarah’s Son: The Death of Children in Late Antiquity* in *The Journal of Orthodox Christian Studies* (forthcoming).

Sebastian P. Brock, *Singer of the Word of God: Ephrem the Syrian and His Significance in Late Antiquity* in *Studies in Late Antiquity* (forthcoming).

Phillip Michael Forness, *Preaching Christology in the Roman Near East: A Study of Jacob of Serugh* in *The Journal of Religion* 102:1 (January, 2022), 61-62.

Yifat Monnickendam, *Jewish Law and Early Christian Identity: Betrothal, Marriage, and Infidelity in the Writings of Ephrem the Syrian* in *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 28:4 (2020), 669-671.

Yonatan Moss, *Incorruptible Bodies: Christology, Society, and Authority in Late Antiquity* in *Body & Religion* 1 (2017), 125-128.

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 AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

"Deceit, Desire, and the Sensorium in the 6th-century East Syriac Martyrs' Cult: Narsai's Poems 'On Martyrs,'" The Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO, 2022.

"Consecrating Christian and Pagan Time in Syriac Poems on Martyrs," The Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, San Antonio, Texas, 2021.

"Ways of Hearing, Ways of Knowing: Listening for the Sounds of Religion," John Foley Workshop in Liturgical and Ritual Studies, Saint Louis University, October, 2021 (conference organizer, with Mary Dunn and Leonard McKinnis).

"Jacob of Serugh," Preaching in the Syriac Tradition, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, June, 2021.

"The Syriac Madrasa and the Aesthetics of Fragmentation," The Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Boston, MA, November, 2020 (cancelled due to covid 19).

"The Rise and Fall of Ephrem, Genius and Saint," The Annual Meeting of the North American Patristics Society, Chicago, IL, May, 2020 (cancelled due to covid 19).

"Jacob's Memra on Sergius and Bacchus," Liturgical Mosaics: Ritual Songs in Late Antiquity, Duke University, May, 2020 (cancelled due to covid 19).

"Grief, Gender, and Genre in the *Mimre* of Jacob of Serugh," The Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, San Diego, CA, November, 2019.

“A Reliquary of Words: The Presence and Absence of the Saints in the Hagiographical Poetry of Jacob of Serugh,” Eighth North American Syriac Symposium, Brown University, June, 2019.

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

“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 '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 PANELS

“Why write Hymns on Saints?” *Recovering Hymnody* workshop, Lumen Christi Institute, Chicago, IL, May, 2022.

“Look—a Force has Carried me Away!’ Poetry, Agency, and History in Late Antique Syriac.” St Vladimir’s Orthodox Seminary Speaker Series, December, 2020.

Discussion of *Bible and Poetry in Late Antique Mesopotamia: Ephrem’s Hymns on Faith*, University of Chicago Late Antiquity Group, October, 2020.

Presentation on *Bible and Poetry in Late Antique Mesopotamia: Ephrem’s Hymns on Faith*, Marquette University, October, 2020.

Panelist, “The Performative Contexts of Late Antique Hymnody,” Liturgical Mosaics: Ritual Songs in Late Antiquity, Duke University, May, 2020 (cancelled due to Covid 19).

“Syriac Poetry,” for Syriac Summer Institute, Dumbarton Oaks and Hill Monastic Museum and Library, 2019.

Respondent to Johannes Lemans, "Homilies as 'Modes of Knowing': A First Exploration on the Basis of Greek Patristic Festal Sermons (ca. 350-ca. 450)," Australian Catholic University Seminar on Modes of Knowing and the Ordering of Knowledge in Early Christianity, Rome, Italy, July, 2018.

"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.

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

"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

Graduate Courses

At University of Notre Dame:

Eastern Christian Hymnody between Liturgical Theology and Ritual Studies (Spring, 2023).

Readings in Syriac (Fall, 2022).

At Saint Louis University:

Sensing Religion (co-taught with Mary Dunn) (Fall, 2020).

Introduction to Syriac (Summer, 2018; Spring, 2020).

Asceticism and the Early Christian Body (Fall, 2019).

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

Ephrem and the Syriac Bible (Fall, 2014).

Christianity in Antiquity Survey (Fall, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019).

Directed Readings: Syriac Hagiographical Poetry (Summer, 2016; Summer 2019); Persian Martyr Acts (Spring, 2017); Syriac Christology and Mysticism (Spring, 2020).

Undergraduate Courses

At University of Notre Dame:

Foundations of Theology (Fall, 2022).

At Saint Louis University:

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).

Theological Foundations (Fall 2012, 2018, 2020; Spring 2013, 2015, 2016).

DISSERTATIONS

Director

At Notre Dame:

(Co-directed with Gary Anderson), Fr. Vincenz Heereman, LC, “Life as Warfare in Ephrem the Syrian’s Hymnody and Homilies” (Prospectus Defended 2021).

At Saint Louis University:

Andrew Tucker, “Isaac of Antioch’s *Memre on Faith*” (Prospectus Defense Scheduled for Feb. 27, 2023).

Ethan Laster, “The Material Formation of Mystical Sensibilities in Late Antique East Syriac Christianity” (Prospectus Defended 2022).

(Co-directed with James Redfield) Laura Locke Estes, “Portraying Muslims as Jews, Pagans, and Heretics in Christian Literature, 7th-9th c. CE” (Defended 2022).

Blake Hartung, “‘Stories of the Cross’: Ephrem and His Exegesis in Fourth-Century Mesopotamia” (Defended 2016).

Tracy Russell, “Virgin Martyrs and Christian Identity in Late Antique Syriac Christianity” (Prospectus Approved 2018).

Committees

Yvonne Angieri Klein, “‘Honor feminini est in matre Christi’: Augustine of Hippo’s View of Women through the Lens of His Mariology” (Defended 2019).

Adam Messer, “God and Gift in Origen of Alexandria” (Defended 2018).

Becky Walker, “‘Queen of the Virtues’: Pastoral and Political Motivations for John Chrysostom’s Exaltation of Almsgiving” (Defended 2018).

Anna Williams, “The Afterlife of a Heretic: Theodore of Mopsuestia and his Legacy as Scriptural Interpreter” (Prospectus Approved 2019).

MTS THESES

Directing

Robert Johnson, “A Worthy Gift to Thy Saving Womb”: Marian Veneration, The Mass, and Leo the Great in Santa Maria Maggiore” (Defended 2018).

Caleb Little, “Embodied Logos: Gregory the Theologian and the Role of Poetic Speech in Theological Discourse” (Defended 2018).

UNDERGRADUATE THESES

Directing

Zayna Abusada, “Clothed in Strength and Dignity: The Lives of the Female Monks of Late Antique Eastern Christianity” (Defended 2018).

Maria Bednar, “Breaking the Binary: Dualism in the Christian Tradition and the Harm of Essentialist Notions of Gender” (Defended 2016).

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

University of Notre Dame:

Director of Graduate Studies, Medieval Institute, 2022-2023.

Saint Louis University:

Graduate Studies Coordinator, Department of Theological Studies, Saint Louis University, 2019-2021.

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, 2016-2019.

Committee Member, Middle East Studies Minor, Saint Louis University, 2013-2019.

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

MTS 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 Mary Dunn) "Martyrdom and the Sensory Turn," Panel at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, 2022.

Advisory Board, *St. Vladimir's Theological Quarterly*, 2020-present.

Faculty co-advisor (with James Redfield), Dorushe Graduate Student Syriac Conference, Saint Louis University, Spring, 2021.

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, *Journal of Early Christian Studies*, 2018.

Dorushe Syriac Studies Advisory Board, 2012-present.

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

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Presentation: "The Sixth and Seventh Ecumenical Councils," Catholic Studies Center, Saint Louis University, Spring, 2018.

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

Presentation on Syriac Christianity, St. Macrina Late Vocations Program, Kansas City Deanery, Diocese of the Midwest, Orthodox Church in America, 2014.

LANGUAGES

Syriac, Classical and Byzantine Greek, Classical Armenian, Classical Arabic (basic), Hebrew (basic), Latin (basic), French (reading), German (reading), Spanish (reading)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion
Byzantine Studies Association of North America
North American Patristics Society
Society of Biblical Literature