

Joel Thomas Walker
Curriculum Vitae (updated June 2017)

Address: Department of History, Box 353560, University of Washington, Seattle WA 98103
E-mail: jwalker@u.washington.edu; Phone: (206) 890-0241; FAX: (206) 543-9451
Citizenship: American (born Mobile, AL).

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

History Department, University of Washington, Seattle

Associate Professor, 2006-present

Assistant Professor, 1998-2006

Acting Assistant Professor, 1997-98

Near Eastern Languages and Civilization Department

Director of Persian Studies, 2012-2015

Adjunct faculty appointment, 1997-present

Classics Department

Adjunct faculty appointment, 2016-present

Comparative Religion Program, Jackson School of International Studies

Voting member of program, 1997-present

Visiting appointments:

Summer, 2007 Medieval Institute, Notre Dame University, South Bend, Indiana

Spring, 2006 Institute of History, Uzbek Academy of Sciences, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

1997-1998 Institute of Archaeology, Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje, Macedonia

EDUCATION

Princeton University, Ph.D., Department of History, June, 1998; Certificate: Program in the Ancient World; Dissertation title: "Hagiography and Christian Community in Late Antique Iraq (500-700 A.D.)," supervised by Professor Peter R. L. Brown.

M.A., Department of History, March 1994, with honors.

Oxford University, Oriental Institute, visiting researcher, 1994-95.

Rice University, B.A., double major in Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations and English, June, 1991, *cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa.

Stanford University, Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome, Jan.-May, 1989.

PUBLICATIONS

Books (Monographs and Edited Volumes)

The Legend of Mar Qardagh: Narrative and Christian Heroism in Late Antique Iraq. Transformation of the Classical Heritage 40. Berkeley, Los Angeles, and London: University of California Press, 2006.

Editor, with Scott Noegel and Brannon Wheeler, *Prayer, Magic, and the Stars in the Ancient and Late Antique World*. Magic in History Series. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2003. Co-author of introduction (pp. 1-17).

Articles and Book Chapters

- “Luminous Markers: Pearls and Royal Authority in Late Antique Iran and Eurasia.” In *Eurasian Empires in Late Antiquity: Rome, China, Iran, and the Steppe*, edited by Nicola Di Cosmo and Michael Maas (Cambridge University Press, in press).
- “Perle.” *Reallexikon für Antike und Christentum* 27 (2014): 147-78.
- “From Nisibis to Xi’an: The Church of the East in Late Antiquity.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Late Antiquity*, ed. Scott F. Johnson (Oxford University Press, 2012), 994-1052.
- “Ascetic Literacy: Books and Readers in East-Syrian Monastic Tradition.” In *Commutatio et Contentio. Studies in the Late Roman, Sasanian, and Early Islamic Near East in Memory of Zeev Rubin*, ed. H. Börm and J. Wiesehöfer (Düsseldorf: Wellem Velag: 2010), 307-45.
- “A Saint and his Biographer in Late Antique Iraq: The *History of St. George of Izla* (†614) by Babai the Great.” In “*Writing true stories*”: *Historians and Hagiographers in the Late Antique and Medieval Near East*, ed. Arietta Papaconstantinou in collaboration with Muriel Debié and Hugh Kennedy (Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols Publishing, 2010), 31-41.
- “Iran and its Neighbors in Late Antiquity: The Art of the Sasanian Empire, 224-642 C.E.” *American Journal of Archaeology* 11, no. 4 (2007): 795-801.
- “The Legacy of Mesopotamia in Late Antique Iraq: The Christian Martyr Shrine at Melqi (Neo-Assyrian Milqia).” *ARAM: The Journal of Syro-Mesopotamian Studies* 18-19 (2006-2007): 471-96.
- “Against the Eternity of the Stars: Disputation and Christian Philosophy in Late Antique Iraq.” In *La Persia e Bizanzio*, ed. G. Gnoli et A. Panaino (Rome: Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, 2004), 518-35.
- “The Tahirler Report (Beypazari Province): Preliminary Report for 2001 Season.” *Arastirma Sonuçlari Toplantisi* 21 (2003): 101-10.
- “The Limits of Late Antiquity: Philosophy between Rome and Iran.” *Ancient World* 33 (2002): 45-69.

Current Research

Jewel of the Palace and the Soul: Pearls in the Arts, Imagination, and Economy of Late Antiquity.

A monograph integrating literary, art historical, and archaeological evidence to examine the role of pearls as objects of adornment and spirituality in the Roman Empire, early Christianity, Byzantium, the Sasanian Empire, and early Islam.

Bull of Heaven and Earth: A History of Cattle in the Ancient World.

A monograph exploring the history of cattle in the art, ritual, and economy of the Ancient World, from Paleolithic cave art to the rejection of animal sacrifice in late antiquity.

Encyclopedia Articles and Other Short Pieces

- “Nestorians.” In *Encyclopedia of Ancient History*, ed. Roger Bagnall et al. (Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013), vol. 9: 4757-60.
- “Nineveh.” In *The Gorgias Encyclopedic Dictionary of the Syriac Heritage*, ed. Sebastian Brock et al., (Hackensack, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2011), 308-10.
- , “Fars.” In *ibid.* (2011), 163-64.

- “The Acts of Mar Qardagh.” In *Readings in Late Antiquity: A Sourcebook*, ed. Michael Maas. New York: Routledge, 2000, 136-37.
- “The Nestorians.” In *Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical World*, ed. G. Bowersock, O. Grabar, and P. R. L. Brown. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1999, 602-3.
- “The Anachronism of Orthodoxy: A Response to ‘The Knowability of God in Gregory of Nyssa’s *Answer to the Second Book of Eunomius*.’” *Koinonia, The Princeton Theological Seminary Graduate Forum* VII.2 (Fall, 1995): 187-90.

Book Reviews (26 reviews in 18 different journals)

Studies in Late Antiquity: A Journal (forthcoming)

Review of Mary Thurkill, *Sacred Scents in Early Christianity and Islam* (Lexington Books, 2016).

Journal of Early Christian Studies 25, no. 1 (2017): 157-58.

Review of Kyle Smith, *The Martyrdom and the History of Blessed Simeon bar Sabba'e* (Gorgias Press, 2014).

Speculum: A Journal of Medieval Studies 89, no. 1 (2014): 169-71.

Review of Averil Cameron, *Late Antiquity on the Eve of Islam* (Ashgate Variorum, 2013).

Classical Review 63, no. 2 (2013): 557-59.

Review of Greg Fisher, *Between Empires: Arabs, Romans, and Sasanians in Late Antiquity* (Oxford University Press, 2011).

Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies 16.2 (Summer, 2013), 385-88.

Review of James Howard-Johnston, *Witnesses to a World Crisis: Historians and Histories of the Middle East in the Seventh Century* (Oxford University Press, 2010).

Silk Road 10 (2012): 188-91.

Review of Samuel N. C. Lieu et al., *Medieval Christian and Manichaean Remains from Quanzhou (Zayton)*. (Turnout: Brepols, 2012).

Church History 79, no. 3 (2010): 690-92.

Review of Thomas Sizgorich, *Violence and Belief in Late Antiquity: Militant Devotion in Christianity and Islam* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009).

Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies 13, no. 2 (summer, 2010), 362-65.

Review of Christoph Baumer, *The Church of the East: An Illustrated History of Assyrian Christianity* (London and New York: I.B. Tauris, 2006).

American Journal of Archaeology 113, no. 1 (2009): 148-49.

Review of Gabriele Puschnigg, *Ceramics of the Merv Oasis: Recycling the City* (Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast Press, 2006).

Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies 12, no. 1 (Winter, 2009), 188-95.

Review of Tjalling Halbertsma, *Early Christian Remains of Inner Mongolia: Discovery, Reconstruction, and Appropriation* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2008).

Aestimatio: Critical Reviews in the History of Science 5 (2008): 245-52.

Review of Paul Magdalino and Maria Mavroudi (Eds), *The Occult Sciences in Byzantium* (Geneva: La Pomme d'Or, 2006).

American Historical Review (October, 2008), 1210-11.

Review of Henning Börm, *Prokop und die Perser: Untersuchungen zu den römisch-sasanidischen Kontakten in der ausgehenden Spätantike* (Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 2007).

Hugoye: The Journal of Syriac Studies 11, no. 2 (Summer, 2008).

- Review of Wilhelm Baum and Dietmar W. Winkler, *The Church of the East: A Concise History*. (London/New York: RoutledgeCurzon, 2003).
- Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing News 17, no. 1 (Winter, 2008): 13-14.
- Review of Konstantinos Sp. Staikos. *The History of the Library in Western Civilization: From Constantine the Great to Cardinal Bessarion* (New Castle, DE: Oak Knoll Press, 2007).
- Speculum: A Journal of Medieval Studies 82, no. 1 (January, 2007): 179-181.
- Review of Nadia Maria el Cheikh. *Byzantium Viewed by the Arabs* (Cambridge, Mass. and London: Harvard University Press, 2004).
- Aestimatio: Critical Reviews in the History of Science 3 (2006): 177-80:
- Review of Helen Rhee. *Early Christian Literature: Christ and Culture in the Second and Third Centuries – The Apologies, Apocryphal Acts and Martyr Acts*. London/New York: Routledge, 2005.
- Bryn Mawr Classical Review 2005.06.21 (6 pages): <http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2005/2005-06-21.html>
- Review of Kevin Butcher, *Roman Syria and the Near East* (Los Angeles: Getty Publications; London: British Museum Press, 2003).
- Journal of Near Eastern Studies 63, no.2 (2004): 122-23.
- Review of John Joseph, *The Modern Assyrians of the Middle East: Encounters with Western Christian Missions, Archaeologists, and Colonial Powers* (Leiden: Brill, 2002).
- Nāme-ye Irān-e Bāstān: The International Journal of Ancient Iranian Studies 2.2 (2002-2003): 105-8.
- Review of Frank R. Trombley and John Watt (Trans), *The Chronicle of Pseudo-Joshua the Stylite* (Liverpool University Press, 2000).
- Religious Studies Review 27 no. 4 (2001): 426-27.
- Review of Molly Greene, *A Shared World: Christians and Muslims in the Early Modern Mediterranean* (Princeton University Press, 2000).
- History: A Review of New Books 29.4 (2001): 177.
- Review of Chase Robinson, *Empire and Elites after the Muslim Conquest: The Transformation of Northern Mesopotamia* (Cambridge University Press, 2000).
- The Medieval Review 01.04.04 (4 pages): <https://scholarworks.iu.edu/dspace/handle/2022/5038>
- Review of Mark Vessey and William Klingshirn (Eds), *The Limits of Early Christianity: Essays in Honor of Robert H. Markus* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1999).
- Journal of Hebrew Scriptures 3 (2000/2001): <http://www.jhsonline.org/reviews/review015.htm>
- Review of C. F. Cruse, Trans. *Eusebius' Ecclesiastical History* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1998).
- Religious Studies Review 26, no. 4 (2000): 366.
- Review of Ray Kamoo, *Ancient and Modern Chaldean History: A Comprehensive Bibliography of Sources* (Lanham, Maryland/London: Scarecrow Press, 1999).
- Religious Studies Review 26, no. 4 (2000): 385.
- Review of Sidney Griffith (Trans), *A Treatise on the Veneration of Icons by Theodore Abu Qurrah, Bishop of Harran (c. 755-C. 830 A.D.)* (Louvain: Peeters, 1997).

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS SINCE GRADUATE SCHOOL

- 2010 Royalty Research Fellowship, University of Washington (\$17,333): for research on *Jewel of the Palace and the Soul: Pearls in the Arts, Economy, and Imagination of Late Antiquity*.

- 2007 NEH Summer Seminar Fellowship (\$4200): for six-week seminar entitled “The Middle East between Rome and Persia: Early Christianity on the Path to Islam” Notre Dame University, June 18 - July 27, 2007.
- 2003 J. William Fulbright Scholarship (Lecturing) (\$19,000): renewal and extension of 2002 Fulbright Lecturing fellowship for Skopje, Macedonia.
- 2002 J. William Fulbright Scholarship (Lecturing) (\$24,300): to teach Byzantine history and archaeology at SS. Cyril and Methodios University, Skopje, Republic of Macedonia, January-July, 2003.
- 2001 Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington, Collaborative Research Project Grant (\$30,000): full funding for the Silk Road Seattle Project, co-organized with D. Waugh (History) and C. J. Bogel (Art History).
- 2001 Royalty Research Foundation, University of Washington (\$17,000): for research project, *In Search of St. Theodore: Archaeology and History of Late Roman Anatolia*.
- 2000 Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington, Teaching Release Grant: to co-teach graduate seminar on “Heresy, Orthodoxy, and Religious Coercion in Late Antiquity.”
- 1999 Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington, Conference Grant: for “Prayer, Magic, and the Stars in the Ancient and Late Antique World.”

UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

Undergraduate courses:

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| The Ancient World (HISTAM 111) | Typical enrollment: 100-200 |
| The World of Late Antiquity (HSTAM 314) | Typical enrollment: 60 |
| The Byzantine Empire (HSTAM 315) | Typical enrollment: 60 |
| The Empires of Ancient Iran (HSTAM 325) | Typical enrollment: 30 |
| Teaching reviews since 2011: <u>4.5-4.9</u> (combined); <u>4.7-5.0</u> (instructor). | |

Undergraduate seminars:

- Jerusalem from King David to the Dome of the Rock (HIST 388)
- Animal-Human Relations from Paleolithic Cave Art to the Chicago Stockyards (HIST 388)
Slightly larger version taught as HONORS 232.
- Religion, Art, and Politics in the Age of Constantine the Great (taught before 2005)
- Archaeology and History of Late Roman Anatolia (taught before 2002)

Undergraduate mentoring:

- Director for eight Mary Gates Undergraduate Fellows:
- Daniel Hadidi (Biology), 2014: Persian Studies
- Kayhan Nejad (History), 2013: Persian studies / CHID student journal
- Brendan Haug (Classics), 1-12, 2003: Roman law in the age of Justinian
- Wade Neal (History), 4-12, 2002: Database for the Tahirler Project
- Richard Peterson (History), 9/2001-3/2002: Late Roman and Byzantine cities
- Monica Meadows (History), 4-12, 2001: Roman roads and administration
- Greg Civay (Anthropology), 4-8/2001: Historical maps of Byzantine Anatolia
- Bryan Averbuch (Near Eastern Studies), 1-6, 2001: Sasanian archaeology

GRADUATE TEACHING

Religion and Society in the Mongol Empire (winter, 2017)
Archaeologies of the Middle East, 1800-present (spring, 2014)
Jerusalem: From King David to the Dome of the Rock (winter, 2013; autumn 2015)
Christian Communities of the Middle East (winter, 2012)
Splendid Adornment: Gems and Jewelry in Roman and Late Antique World (spring, 2011)
Introduction to the Roman Near East (2005, 2007, autumn, 2010)
Bull of Heaven and Earth: Animals and Religion in the Ancient World (winter, 2010)
Early Christian Monasticism in Egypt, Syria, and Palestine, ca. 300-700 C.E. (autumn, 2008)
The Mongols: Warfare, Trade, and Culture in Eurasia, ca. 1180-1405 C.E. (winter, 2008)
Books, Readers, and Literacy in the World of Late Antiquity (autumn, 2006)
The World of Late Antiquity: An Introduction to the Historiography (2001, 2003)
Warfare, Diplomacy, and Empire in the Age of Justinian (autumn, 2002)
The Holy Land in Late Antiquity and Early Islam (winter, 2002)
Heresy, Orthodoxy, and Religious Coercion in Early Christianity (spring, 2000)
Asceticism and Monastic Biography in Late Antiquity (autumn, 1998)

Current Ph.D. students (* indicates committee chair or co-chair):

*Jeffrey Haines (History): Syriac Christian traditions of the Middle East
Michael Sims (NME Ph.D.): Kurdish and Assyrian Christian intersections in 19th c. Anatolia.
Oscar Aguirre Mandujano (NME Ph.D.): "Poetry and politics in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire."
*Arna Elezovic (History): British Antiquarians and Slavic Intellectuals in the Balkans, 1880-1930s.

Ph.D. graduates with dissertation titles:

2017 Alyson Roy (History): "Engineering Power: Material Expressions of Conquest in the Roman Republic."
2016 Josh Hartman (Classics): "Allusion and the Invention of Tradition in Late Latin Poetry."
2015 *Jennifer Webster (History): "Toward a Sacred Topography of Central Asia: Shrines, Pilgrimage, and Gender in Kyrgyzstan."
2014 Mira Green (History): "In and Out: Food, the Body, and Social Hierarchies of Roman Households."
2013 *Monica Morrice (History): "The Horse: Conspicuous Consumption of Embodied Masculinity in South Asia, 1600-1850 C.E."
2013 *Stefan Kamola (History): "Rashid al-Din and the Making of History in Mongol Iran."
2013 Jason Shattuck (History): "A place for every barbarian, a road for every Roman: *imperium*, movement, and Roman identity from Pompey to Hadrian."
2012 *Kristian Petersen (Interdisciplinary Middle Eastern Ph.D.): "The great transformation: contours of the Sino-Islamic intellectual tradition."
2011 Joseph Creamer (History): "In the footsteps of Becket: episcopal sanctity in England, 1170-1270."
2011 Thomas Cramer (History): "Defending the double monastery: gender and society in early medieval Europe."
2010 Ethan Spanier (History): "*Bonus agricola*: the good farmer in ancient Rome."

- 2009 Elizabeth Campbell (History): "A heaven of wine: Muslim-Christian encounters at monasteries in the early Islamic Middle East."
- 2008 Richard Tada (History): "Apollodorus of Artemita and the rise of the Parthian Empire."
- 2007 Elliott Ohannes (Interdisciplinary Middle East Ph.D.): "William Mitchell Ramsay: an intellectual biography."
- 2001 Byron Nakamura (History): "*Transmutatio memoriae*: representations of the emperor Diocletian and the Roman past."

Former graduate students (with exam fields)

- 2013 Ruben Valencia (Middle East MA in Jackson School): Christianity in the Middle East
- 2011 Brad King (Comparative Religion): Syriac/Manichaean traditions
- 2010 Elina Galperin (History): The Mongols and their Empires
- 2010 Polly Yorioka (Comparative Religion): Syriac Christianity
- 2009 *Nicholas Grossenbacher (History): Christianity in the Middle East
- 2005 Adam Larson (Comparative Religion): Syriac Christianity
- 2005 Bryan Averbuch (NELC): Late Antiquity and early Islam
- 2002 Deana DeLorenzo, (Comparative Religion): Early Christianity and Islam
- 2001 Juliet Crawford (Comparative Religion): Early Christianity
- 2001 Eric Scherbensky (Comparative Religion): Early Christianity
- 2000 Jennifer Dean (History): Late Antiquity (North Africa)

ORGANIZATION OF CONFERENCES AND LECTURE SERIES

American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE): Multi-year lecture series, featuring six-eight lectures each year by scholars working on all aspects of ancient, medieval, and modern Egypt. All events are co-sponsored with the UW Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization. I organized the lecture series during my term as president (2006-8) of ARCE-Northwest, the Seattle-based chapter of this national organization. Since 2008, I have continued to help design and facilitate the lecture series as a member of the ARCE-Northwest Board.

Persian Studies Workshop: Multi-year seminar series (2011-present), featuring six or more presentations each year by UW faculty, students, and visiting scholars in the field of Persian Studies, broadly defined. Lectures explore different aspects of Persian and Persianate literature and history, as well as the society and politics of contemporary Iran, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan.

Silk Road Seattle: Multi-year lecture series co-organized with Daniel Waugh (Russian history), Florian Schwarz (Islamic history), and other University of Washington faculty in Art History, Comparative Religion, and Near Eastern Languages and Civilization.

- 2006-2007: The Silk Road in the Mongol Era (4 lectures)
- 2004-2005: Buddhism on the Silk Road (4 lectures)
- Spring, 2002: Art and Religion on the Silk Road (5 lectures; photography exhibit)

Prayer, Magic, and the Stars in the Ancient and Late Antique World

International symposium, March 3-5, 2000, at the University of Washington, Seattle. Co-organized with Profs. S. Noegel and B. Wheeler of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization.

Jerusalem in the Western Religious Tradition

A six-part public lecture series in 1999-2000 to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the University of Washington's Comparative Religion Program. The lecture series was the central event of a long-range initiative for outreach and fund-raising. Co-organized with Professors Wheeler and Noegel.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD WORK

Field director, The Tahirler Project (1997-98, 2000-2003), Beypazari, Turkey.

This project, initiated by my dissertation director, Peter Brown, investigated the history and archaeology of the Roman/Byzantine province of Galatia, focusing on sites along the Roman highway connecting Constantinople to Ankara and the eastern frontier. Three short seasons of field survey with a team of 4-7 members allowed us to identify a series of rural, late Roman and Byzantine sites and to link some of these sites to the career of the early Byzantine "holy man" St. Theodore of Sykeon (†613 C.E).

Aqaba, Jordan: North Carolina State University Roman Aqaba Project, trench supervisor, May-June, 1994. Excavated domestic complex from early Islamic period.

Bliesbrück, Lorraine, France: French Ministry of Culture excavation of Gallo-Roman town, volunteer, 1993.

Princeton, Oregon: Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, archaeology intern, June-August, 1991. Survey and excavation of Northern Paiute village site.

Crotone, Italy: University of Texas at Austin Metaponto Project, Archaeology Field School, June-August, 1990. Excavation of Neolithic agricultural site.

Tübingen, Germany: Landesdenkmalamt Baden-Württemberg, paid excavator, July 1989. Excavation of pit houses from an early medieval village.

Independent travel and study of archaeological sites in the following countries: Georgia and Armenia (2010); Syria (2009, 1994); Uzbekistan (2006); China (2006-8); Guatemala and Honduras (2005); the Balkans (2003-4); Turkey (1994, 1996-2002); Greece (1998); India (1998); Jordan and the Egyptian Sinai (1994); Tunisia and Morocco (1992); and Western Europe (1989-93).

ACADEMIC LECTURES (CONFERENCE SUBMISSIONS)

International Congress of Medieval Studies (51st), Western Michigan University, May 12-15, 2016: "The Dragon and the Pearl: Pathways of a Eurasian Motif."

North American Syriac Studies Conference (6th), Duke University, June 26-29, 2011: "The Diver's Quest: Pearl Imagery in the East-Syrian Monastic Tradition."

Medieval Association of the Pacific, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA, March 5-10, 2010: "The Jewels of Diplomacy: Pearls and Pearled Objects in the Late Antique and early Islamic Middle East."

Middle Eastern Studies Association of North America (43rd Annual), Boston, MA, Nov. 21-24, 2009: "The Gentleman Wore Peals: Pearled Vestments and Jewelry in the Sasanian and Early Islamic Middle East."

Shifting Frontiers in Late Antiquity (8th Biennial), Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, April 2-5, 2009: “From the Heavens and the Sea: Pearls in the Arts and Imagination of Late Antiquity.”

Medieval Workshop (36th Annual), University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, Oct. 27-28, 2006: “Remembering the Martyrs: Performance and Hagiography in Late Antique Iraq.”

Congress of Byzantine Studies (21st International), London, Aug. 21-26, 2006. For panel *Historians and Hagiographers in the Late Antique and Early Islamic Middle East*: “Hagiography as History in Late Antique Iraq: The Contribution of Babai the Great.”

ARAM Conference (21st Annual): Pilgrimages and Shrines in the Syrian World, Oxford University. July 6-8, 2005: “The Festival at Melqi: A Late Antique Martyr Shrine in Adiabene (Northern Iraq).”

American Historical Association (119th Annual), Seattle, WA, Jan. 4-5, 2005. For panel sponsored by the Association of Church Historians: “Books and Readers in East-Syrian Monastic Tradition.”

Middle Eastern Studies Association of North America (34th Annual), Orlando, FL, Nov. 17-19, 2000. For panel *New Light on Sasanian History*: “The Politics of Conversion: Christians and Zoroastrians in Late Sasanian Iraq.”

Western Humanities Alliance Conference (19th Annual) University of Washington, Seattle, WA, Oct. 12-14, 2000. For conference *The Pious and the Profane: Religion and Public Culture*: “Religious Disputation in Early Byzantium and Late Antique Iraq.”

Conference on Iranian Studies (3rd Biennial), Washington, DC, May 25-28, 2000. For panel I organized on Sasanian history: “The Shrine of Mar Qardagh of Arbela: The Transformation of Sacred Space in Late Antique Iraq.”

American Historical Association (114th Annual), Chicago, Jan. 8-9, 2000. For panel organized by the Association of Ancient Historians: “East of Byzantium: The Sasanian Empire and the Limits of Late Antiquity.”

Symposium of Excavations, Surveys, and Archaeometry (21st Annual), National Library Ankara, Turkey, May 24-28, 1999: “The Tahirler Project: Archaeological Reconnaissance in Western Galatia.”

Byzantine Studies Conference (24th Annual), University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, October 20-22, 1998: “In Search of St. Theodore in Central Anatolia: Archaeological Survey of late Roman Galatia.”

World Syriac Studies Conference (3rd International), Kottayam, Kerala, India, Sept. 6-12, 1998: “Family Conflict in the Legends of the Sasanian Martyrs.”

Byzantine Studies Conference (22nd Annual), University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Oct. 24-27, 1996: “Crosses and Fire Altars: Sasanian Seals as Evidence for Christianity in the Persian Aristocracy.”

Graduate Student Conference on the Middle East (5th Annual) UCLA, April 26-7, 1996: “Women and Christianity in late Sasanian Iraq.”

Syriac Studies Conference (2nd North American), Catholic University, Washington, DC, August, 2010: “History and Hagiography in late Sasanian Iraq: The *Acts of Mar Qardagh the Assyrian*.”

Byzantine Studies Conference (20th Annual), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, Oct. 20-23, 1994: “Mission Narrative and Ethnography in the *Ecclesiastical History* of Philostorgius the Cappadocian († 439 A.D.).”

ACADEMIC LECTURES (BY INVITATION)

Belgian Academy, Rome: “Persuasive Histories: Documents and Imagination in Syriac Hagiography,”

for conference *Fictionality in Late Antique Hagiography*, [[June 15-17, 2017]].

Gonzaga University: “Cattle Bones: How Faunal Archaeology Helps Us Understand Animal-Human Relations,” invited lecture for symposium *Archaeology and the Humanities*, [[October 20-21, 2017]].

University of California, Berkeley, Center for the Study of Religion: “The Mongols and the Church of the East”; also Late Antiquity Study Group: “Cleopatra’s Pearls: Adornment, Jewels, and Indian Ocean Commerce in the Roman World.” 3/8/2016.

Brown University, Providence, RI. “The Mongols and the Church of the East.” 3/14/2014.
Keynote address for 31st Annual New England Medieval Studies Consortium Graduate Student Conference: “Island Hopping: Trade, Ethnography, and Religion in the Indian Ocean World of Late Antiquity.” 3/15/2014.

Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ. For conference *Worlds in Motions: Rome, China, and the Eurasian Steppe - 250-650 CE* (scheduled for 5/30/2013): “Luminous Markers: Pearl Imagery and the Pearl Trade in Late Antique Eurasia.”

Portland State University, Hellenic Studies/Middle East Center (4/27/2012): “Jewel of the Palace: Pearls as Markers of Elite Status in the Byzantine and Sasanian Empires.”

Princeton University, History Department et al. For *Religion, Politics, and Society from Constantine to Charlemagne: A Conference in Honor of Peter Brown* (5/6/2011): “Jewel of the Palace and Altar: Pearls in the Arts, Economy, and Imagination of Late Antiquity.”

University of California, Los Angeles, Asia Institute (1/21/2011). For lecture series: *Religions of the Silk Road* lecture series: “The Monks of Khublai Khan: The Mongols and the Church of the East.”

University of Texas at Austin, Late Antiquity Group (2/20/2009): “Books and Readers in the Christian Middle East.”

Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada. For conference *Bridging Frontiers: Intersections between Hellenism and Islam in Byzantium, The Caliphates and the Ottoman Empire* (10/5/2008): “A Byzantine Saint and His Landscape: St. Theodore of Sykeon between Archaeology and Folklore.”

Hebrew University, Institute of Advanced Study, Jerusalem. For conference *Paedeia and Scripture — The Transformation of Religious Knowledge in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages (300-900 C.E.)*: “Books and Readers in East-Syrian Monastic Tradition.”

Princeton University, Dept. of History. For conference *Landscapes of the Saints: Hagiography, Land, and Social Change in Europe and the Near East, ca. 500-1000* (3/28/2008): “Remembering St. Theodore: Hagiography and Topography in Late Roman Anatolia.”

California State University, Fullerton, For conference *Images and Lives of Women in Ancient Iran* (4/21/2007): “Hazarowai becomes Maria: Narratives of Female Conversion to Christianity in the Late Sasanian Empire.”

University of Chicago, Oriental Institute (10/18/2006): “Narrative and Christian Heroism in Late Antique Iraq.”

Institute of History, Uzbek Academy of Arts and Sciences, Tashkent (6/26/2006): “Narrative and Christian Heroism in Late Antique Iraq.”

Al-Biruni Institute, Tashkent (6/30/2006): “Books and Readers in the Christian Middle East.”

Catholic University, Center for the Study of Early Christianity, Washington, DC (2/3/2006): “Narrative and Christian Heroism in Late Antique Iraq: The Legend of St. Qardagh.”
Second lecture: “Books and Readers in the Christian Middle East.”

University of California, Berkeley, Late Antiquity Study Group (12/5/2005): “Books and Readers in the Christian Middle East.”

Sts. Cyril and Methodios University, Department of History and Institute for Art History and Archaeology, Skopje, Republic of Macedonia (5/14/2003): "Narrative and Christian Heroism in Late Antique Iraq."

University of British Columbia, Vancouver (3/7/2002). For interdepartmental lecture series *Saints and their Afterlives*: "In Search of St. Theodore: A Byzantine Saint and his Countryside."

Duke University, Department of Religion (2/8/2000): "Narrative and Christian Heroism in Late Antique Iraq." Second lecture: "Christianity and Local Culture in the Kingdom of Aksum (Ethiopia)"

Istituto Italiano per L'Africa e L'Oriente, Rome. For international conference *La Persia e Bisanzio* hosted by the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, October 14-18, 2002: "Against the Eternity of the Stars: Disputation and Christian Philosophy in Late Antique Iraq."

University of Chicago, Oriental Institute, Oct. 27-31, 2000. For conference *Assyrian and Babylonian Intellectual Heritage Project*: "Syriac Christianity and the Assyrian Past."

Claremont Graduate School, Institute for Antiquity and Christianity. For conference *Out of the Desert: Dry Places in History and Imagination*, Feb. 24-26, 2000: "Children of Mar Abraham: The Desert Fathers of Late Antique Iraq."

University of California at Los Angeles, Von Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies. For conference *Iran: Continuity, Change, and Transition*, Feb. 8-9, 1997: "Your Heroic Deeds Give Us Pleasure!": Christianity and the Persian Epic Tradition."

PUBLIC LECTURES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Persian Studies (scheduled for 5/14/2013): "Splendid Adornment: Pearls and the Pearl Trade in the Sasanian and early Islamic Middle East."

American Research Center in Egypt (1/26/2012): "Cleopatra's Pearls: Trade, Gender, and Adornment in Greco-Roman Egypt and the Mediterranean World." Repeated Seattle Athenaeum (11/9/2016).

Ellison Center, Jackson School for International Studies (10/14/2010): "Monks, Martyrs, and the Formation of Armenian Christian Tradition." Second lecture (10/28/2010): "In the Land of St. Nino: Gender, Narrative, and the Christianization of Medieval Georgia."

Comparative Religious Studies in Central Asia (4/15/2007). Seattle, Washington: "A Race Far Superior to Men: Christian Women at the Mongol Court."

Silk Road Seattle, (4/3/2007): "The Monks of Kublai Khan: Christianity under the Mongols."

University Bookstore (2006): "The Legend of St. Qardagh: Christianity in pre-Islamic Iraq."

Jerusalem in the Western Historical Imagination, (3/12/2000): "Pilgrims, Ascetics, and the Formation of a Christian Holy Land."

Archaeological Institute of America, Seattle chapter, First Annual Lecture on Classical Culture (2/17/2000): "In Search of St. Theodore: History and Archaeology of Early Byzantine Anatolia."

PUBLIC LECTURES FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities. Vancouver, Canada (4/26/2013): "Cleopatra's Pearls: Trade, Gender, and Adornment in Greco-Roman Egypt and the Mediterranean World."

Armenian-American Cultural Association. Bellevue, WA (1/8/2012): "The Warriors and the Scholar in Medieval Armenia."

Seattle Asian Art Museum (3/12/2011), with Dan Waugh: "Religious Pluralism in Central Asia."

Lapidary Society of the Pacific Northwest, Seattle (6/9/2009): “Jewel of the Sea: The Origin and Qualities of Pearls in Roman and European Tradition.”

Magna Carta Society, Seattle chapter (4/18/2009): “How Pearls Became a Symbol of Royalty and Virginity in Medieval England.”

American Cultural Center, Bitola, Macedonia (4/20/2004): “Teaching Stobi in America: Instructional Methodologies at an American Research University.”

Temple Beth Am, Seattle (4/21/2002): “The Jewish and Christian Communities of Northern Iraq.”

Archaeological Institute of America, Portland chapter (1/18/2001): “In Search of St. Theodore: A Byzantine Saint and his Anatolian Countryside.”

Turkish-American Association, Seattle (1/19/2002). “The Suriyane Christians of Southeastern Turkey.”

St. James Episcopal Church, Seattle (3/18/2000): “Early Christian Pilgrims in the Holy Land.”

COMMITTEE SERVICE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Numbers in parentheses indicate service during multiple years:

Department of History: Admissions (4), Assistant Professor promotion, Assistant Professor review (2), Chair’s Advisory Committee; Lecturer review or hiring (3), Faculty hiring (2); Long-range planning committees (2); and Bicknell and Magna Carta Scholarships (often).

Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization: Assistant Professor review (2), Assistant Professor promotion (2); Lecturer hiring; and double faculty search.

Middle East Center, Jackson School: Admissions committee (chair).

Graduate School: Chester Fritz Study-abroad scholarships (2); Fulbright interviews (2); Museology Program 10-year review; co-sponsor and host for Walker-Ames scholar Judith Lieu; RRF proposal review (3); GSR for MA and Ph.D. students in Anthropology (2004), Classics (2007), Comparative Literature (2012), and Asian Languages and Literature (2013).

Comparative Religion Program, Jackson School: Admission (2) and Webb Scholarship (4) committees.

Hellenic Studies: Chief organizer and host for Onassis Foundation Visiting Scholar.

UW Interdisciplinary Near and Middle Eastern Studies Ph.D.: Admissions committee (2).

OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

External faculty reviews: for promotion files in the fields of late antiquity (4), Iranian history and archaeology (3), and the Caucasus.

Manuscript reviews for presses: University of California Press (5); Oxford University Press (4); Cambridge University Press; Blackwell Publishing; Routledge Books; Syracuse University Press; Hackett Press, and the British Institute of Persian Studies.

Manuscript review for journals: *Ars Orientalis*; *Compass: Religion*; *Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies*; *Iranian Studies*; *Journal of Late Antiquity* (2); *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*.

Application reviews: National Endowment of the Humanities (2).

External examiner/reviewer: Danish Research Council for Independent Research; European Research Council; Swiss National Research Foundation; Macquarie University, Australia; University of Vienna.

LANGUAGES

Reading: German, French, Italian, Latin, Greek, and Syriac (Christian Aramaic).
Speaking: German (comfortable), functional French, basic Russian and Turkish.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Institute of Archaeology, lifetime member, since 2007

American Research Center in Egypt, NW chapter, since 2005

Chapter president, 2006-2008; board member, 2009-15

Byzantine Studies Society of North America, since 2002

Fulbright Association, lifetime member, since 2005