

Kyle Smith

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University of Toronto
Jackman Humanities Building
170 St. George St., 3rd Floor
Toronto, Ont. M5R 2M8 – CANADA

EMPLOYMENT

- 2017– **Associate Professor, University of Toronto**
Department of Historical Studies (Primary/Undergraduate Appointment)
Department for the Study of Religion (Graduate Appointment)
Centre for Medieval Studies (Associate Faculty)
- 2011–17 **Assistant Professor, University of Toronto**
Department of Historical Studies (Primary/Undergraduate Appointment)
Department for the Study of Religion (Graduate Appointment)
Centre for Medieval Studies (Associate Faculty)

EDUCATION

- 2011 **Ph.D., Duke University** – Early Christianity
Graduate Program in Religion
- 2003 **M.A., University of Notre Dame** – Early Christian Studies
Departments of Classics and Theology
- 2000 **B.A., University of Notre Dame** – Philosophy and Peace Studies
Department of Philosophy and Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2015 University of Toronto Early Career Teaching Award (\$3,000)
- 2004–15 University of Toronto Online Undergraduate Course Initiative (\$12,000)
- 2009–11 Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fellow (\$90,000)

- 2010 Finalist, Duke University Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching
- 2008–09 Julian Price Dissertation Research Fellow (\$45,000)
- 2004–08 Duke University Graduate Program in Religion Fellowship (\$180,000)
- 2003–04 Fulbright Research Fellow, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the École biblique et archéologique française de Jérusalem (\$22,000)
- 2003–04 Research Associate, Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, Jerusalem

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

- (2021/22) *The Cult of the Dead: A Brief History of Christianity* (under contract with University of California Press)
- 2018 with J.-N. Mellon Saint-Laurent, *The History of Mar Behnam and Sarah: Martyrdom and Monasticism in Medieval Iraq*. Persian Martyr Acts in Syriac: Text and Translation, 5. Piscataway: Gorgias Press. [pp. ix + 154]
- 2016 *Constantine and the Captive Christians of Persia: Martyrdom and Religious Identity in Late Antiquity*. Transformation of the Classical Heritage, 57. Berkeley: University of California Press. [pp. xxii + 231]
- 2015 ed. with M. Doerfler and E. Fiano, *Syriac Encounters: Papers from the Sixth North American Syriac Symposium at Duke University, 26-29 June 2011*. Eastern Christian Studies, 20. Leuven: Peeters Publishers. [pp. xx + 498]
- 2014 *The Martyrdom and History of Blessed Simeon bar Šabba ʿe*. Persian Martyr Acts in Syriac: Text and Translation, 3. Piscataway: Gorgias Press. [pp. liii + 233]
- 2010 with H. Arneson, E. Fiano, and C. Luckritz Marquis, *The History of the Great Deeds of Bishop Paul of Qentos and Priest John of Edessa*. Texts from Christian Late Antiquity, 29. Piscataway: Gorgias Press. [pp. ix + 87]

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS

- Forthcoming “The Synod of Mar Dādišoʿ — 424 CE.” In *Corpus Christianorum Conciliorum Œcumenicorum Generaliumque Decreta*, vol. V, ed. A. Melloni. Turnhout: Brepols Publishers.
- 2014 “‘A Last Disciple of the Apostles’: The ‘Editor’s’ Preface, Rabbula’s *Rules*, and the Date of the *Book of Steps*.” Pp. 72-96 in *Breaking the Mind: New Studies in the Syriac Book of Steps*, ed. R. Kitchen and K. Heal. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press.
- 2012 “Constantine and Judah the Maccabee: History and Memory in the *Acts of the Persian Martyrs*.” *Journal of the Canadian Society for Syriac Studies* 12: 16-33.

2009 “Dendrites and Other Standers in the *History of the Exploits of Bishop Paul of Qanetos and Priest John of Edessa*.” *Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies* 12: 117-34.

BOOK REVIEWS

2019 Review of N. J. Andrade, *The Journey of Christianity to India in Late Antiquity: Networks and the Movement of Culture* (Cambridge University Press, 2018). *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 27: 141-43.

2018 Review of A. M. Butts and S. Gross, *The History of the ‘Slave of Christ’: From Jewish Child to Christian Martyr* (Gorgias Press, 2016). *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 26: 149-51.

2017 Review of G. Herman, ed., *Jews, Christians and Zoroastrians: Religious Diversity in a Sasanian Context* (Gorgias Press, 2014). *Journal of Late Antiquity* 9: 560-63.

2016 “When Christians Became Iranian.” Review of R. Payne, *A State of Mixture: Christians, Zoroastrians, and Iranian Political Culture in Late Antiquity* (University of California Press, 2015). *Marginalia Review of Books*, 16 February 2016.

2015 Review of P. Wood, *The Chronicle of Seert: Christian Historical Imagination in Late Antique Iraq* (Oxford University Press, 2013). *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 23: 322-23.

2013 Review of C. Moss, *Ancient Christian Martyrdom: Diverse Practices, Theologies, and Traditions* (Yale University Press, 2012). *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 21: 466-68.

2013 “Porphyry’s Persecution.” Review of E. Digeser, *A Threat to Public Piety: Christians, Platonists, and the Great Persecution* (Cornell University Press, 2012). *The Classical Review* 63: 169-71.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

2011 “Conference Report: Sixth North American Syriac Symposium.” *Journal of the Canadian Society for Syriac Studies* 11: 70-72.

PAPERS PRESENTED

INVITED LECTURES

2016 “Before and After Alexander: Sennacherib, Julian, and an Assyrian Christian Martyr in Medieval Iraq”

After Alexander: Classical Texts in Arabic, Persian, and Armenian; Islamic Studies Program, University of Michigan

2016 “Was There ‘Religion’ in Sasanian Persia?”

Iranian Studies Seminar, University of Toronto

2014 “Syriac Studies: What’s Still Missing and What’s to Come?”

Dorushe Graduate Student Conference on Syriac, Duke University

- 2014 “Reading Renunciation: Gushtazad the Eunuch and Biblical Interpretation in the *Acts of the Persian Martyrs*”
Presidential Lecture for the Oriental Club of the University of Toronto
- 2013 “Reading Renunciation: Gushtazad the Eunuch and Biblical Interpretation in the *Acts of the Persian Martyrs*”
Late Antiquity Made New: A Symposium Celebrating the Work of Elizabeth A. Clark, Duke University
- 2012 “Constantine and Judah the Maccabee: History and Memory in the *Acts of the Persian Martyrs*”
Meeting of the Oriental Club of the University of Toronto
- 2011 “Creating a People Apart: The Use of the Maccabees in the *Martyrdom of Blessed Simeon bar Šabbaʿe*”
Meeting of the Canadian Society for Syriac Studies, University of Toronto
- 2004 “From the Great Lavra to *Spelaion* (‘The Caves’): Mar Saba’s Monastic Foundations in the Judean Desert”
The Byzantine St. Stephen’s Project: A Biocultural Reconstruction of Urban Monastic Life,
Department of Anthropology, University of Notre Dame

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 “The Long, Long Lives of the Persian Martyrs”
VIIIth North American Syriac Studies Symposium, Brown University
- 2017 “An Atlas of Martyrdom: Eusebius, Syriac Christianity, and the Martyrdom Narrative as Genre”
Meeting of the North American Patristics Society, Chicago
- 2016 “St. Sergius Comes to Iraq: On the Reception of a Greek Martyr in Syriac”
Afterlives of Violence Conference, Queen’s University (Kingston, Ont.)
- 2016 “The Islamic State, Syriac Historiography, and a Sasanian Martyrs’ Shrine in Iraq”
Meeting of the North American Patristics Society, Chicago
- 2015 “Constantine and the Captive Christians of Persia”
XVIIth International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford University
- 2015 “Was There ‘Religion’ in Sasanian Persia?”
VIIth North American Syriac Studies Symposium, The Catholic University of America

- 2014 “The Christian Captives of Roman Mesopotamia”
Meeting of the Canadian Society for Syriac Studies, University of Toronto
- 2014 “The Christian Captives of Roman Mesopotamia”
Meeting of the North American Patristics Society, Chicago
- 2012 “Judas Maccabeus as Christian Priest: Ideology and Interpretation in the *Acts of the Persian Martyrs*”
Meeting of the North American Patristics Society, Chicago
- 2011 “Constantine and the Christians of Persia, Reconsidered”
VIth North American Syriac Studies Symposium, Duke University
- 2009 “Constantine’s Letters to Shapur and the Letter of Simeon bar Šabba’e to Caesar: A Reappraisal of the Persian Persecution”
Meeting of the North American Patristics Society, Chicago
- 2007 “‘A Last Disciple of the Apostles’: The ‘Editor’s’ Preface, Rabbula’s *Rules*, and the Date of the *Book of Steps*”
XVth International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford University
- 2007 “Dendrites and Other Standers: Evidence from the *History of the Exploits of Bishop Paul of Qanetos and Priest John of Edessa*”
Vth North American Syriac Studies Symposium, University of Toronto
- 2006 “John the Solitary and the Egyptianization of Syriac Christianity”
The Desert Fathers: Images and Influences, Durham University, U.K.
- 2005 “The Perfect and the Upright: Notions of Poverty in the *Book of Steps*”
Conference on Wealth and Poverty in Early Christianity, Pappas Patristics Institute of the Holy Cross Orthodox School of Theology, Boston
- 2005 “Covenanter: The Use of *Uxtawor* in Fifth-Century Armenian Christianity”
Meeting of the North American Patristics Society, Chicago

RESPONSE PAPERS

- 2019 Response to P. Klassen and M. Scheer, eds., *The Public Work of Christmas: Difference and Belonging in Multicultural Societies* (Massey College, University of Toronto)
- 2009 Response to Elizabeth Castelli: “Religious Identity through the Prism of Spectacle in Early Christianity” (Center for Late Ancient Studies, Duke University)
- 2006 Response to Susan Harvey: “Making Sense of Scents: Olfactory Guides for the Late Antique Christian” (Center for Late Ancient Studies, Duke University)

TEACHING

2020	RLG 3216-F:	Christianity in the Late Antique Near East (Graduate Seminar)
	RLG 337-F:	Christmas: A History
	RLG 203-Su	Introduction to Christianity (Online Course)
	RLG 445-S:	Making Martyrs: From Socrates to the Suicide Bomber
	RLG 3242-S:	Christian Asceticism in Late Antiquity (Graduate Seminar)
2019	RLG 203-F:	Introduction to Christianity (Online Course)
	RLG 203-S:	Introduction to Christianity (Online Course)
	RLG 3212-S:	Martyrdom and Christian Identity (Graduate Seminar)
2018	RLG 340-F:	Christmas: A History
	RLG 440-F:	Women and Gender in Early and Medieval Christianity
2017	RLG 203-S:	Introduction to Christianity (Online Course)
	RLG 3216-S:	Christianity in the Late Antique Near East (Graduate Seminar)
2016	RLG 340-F:	Christmas: A History
	RLG 445-F:	Making Martyrs: From Socrates to the Suicide Bomber
2015	RLG 203-F:	Introduction to Christianity (Online Course)
	RLG 312-F:	Method and Theory in the History of Religions
	RLG 203-S:	Introduction to Christianity (Online Course)
	RLG 312-S:	Method and Theory in the History of Religions
2014	RLG 3212-F:	Martyrdom and Christian Identity (Graduate Seminar)
	RLG 340-S:	Women and Gender in Early and Medieval Christianity
	RLG 3242-S:	Christian Asceticism in Late Antiquity (Graduate Seminar)
2013	RLG 445-F:	Making Martyrs: From Socrates to the Suicide Bomber
	RLG 203-F:	Introduction to Christianity
	RLG 203-S:	Introduction to Christianity
	RLG 3212-S:	Martyrdom and Christian Identity (Graduate Seminar)
2012	RLG 203-F:	Introduction to Christianity
	RLG 203-S:	Introduction to Christianity
	RLG 3242-S:	Christian Asceticism in Late Antiquity (Graduate Seminar)
2011	RLG 203-F:	Introduction to Christianity

GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING

- 2019 – Ph.D. Supervisor, Justin Arnwine
Ph.D. Candidate, Centre for Medieval Studies
- 2018 – Exam and Dissertation Committee, Reagan Patrick
Dept. of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations
- 2018–19 MA Supervisor, Kent Peters
Dept. for the Study of Religion
- 2017 – Ph.D. Supervisor, James Shire
Ph.D. Candidate, Dept. for the Study of Religion
- 2016 Dissertation Reader, Dr. Rebecca Bartel
Dept. for the Study of Religion
Card Carrying Christians: Credit, Debt, and Believing in Emerging Colombia
- 2016 Dissertation Reader, Dr. Nathalie LaCoste
Dept. for the Study of Religion
Waters of the Exodus: Jewish Experiences with Water in Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt
- 2015–17 M.A. Supervisor, James Shire
Dept. for the Study of Religion
- 2015 Dissertation Reader, Dr. Khalid Dinno
Dept. of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations
The Syrian Orthodox Christians in the Late Ottoman and Early Post-Ottoman Period
- 2015 Dissertation Reader, Dr. Emmanuel Joseph Mar-Emmanuel
Dept. of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations
The Book of Resh Melle by Yohannan bar Penkaye: A Study of its Literary Genres
- 2012–19 Co-Supervisor, Dr. Ashoor Yousif
Dept. for the Study of Religion
God's Deputy and Christ's Apostle: The Abbasid Caliph and the Christian Patriarch in Syriac and Arabic Historiography
- 2011 – Co-Supervisor, Maria Dasios
Ph.D. Candidate, Dept. for the Study of Religion
Media and Materiality in Late Ancient Christian Texts
- 2011–19 Co-Supervisor, Dr. Rami Tanous
Dept. for the Study of Religion
Negotiating the Nativity in Late Antiquity: The Qur'ān's Rereading of Mary's Preparation for the Conception of Jesus

2011-12 M.A. Supervisor, Ashoor Yousif
Dept. for the Study of Religion
Reasoned Faith in a Reasonable Time: Christian-Muslim Interactions in Abbasid Iraq

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

2014 – Grants and Awards Committee Member, North American Patristics Society
2013 – Advisory Board, Dorushe: North American Graduate Student Society for Syriac Studies
2011 – Elected Member, Board of Directors, Canadian Society for Syriac Studies
2012 – Editorial Board Member, *Journal of the Canadian Society for Syriac Studies*
2013-14 President, Oriental Club of the University of Toronto
2012-13 Vice President, Oriental Club of the University of Toronto
2012 Chair, Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for Syriac Studies
2010-12 Elected Member, Board of Directors, North American Patristics Society
2010-11 Co-Organizer, Sixth North American Syriac Symposium, Duke University

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2020 Search Committee for the Director, Institute for the Study of University Pedagogy (ISUP)
2019 External MA Thesis Reader, George Amanatidis-Saadé
Dept. of Classics and Religious Studies, University of Ottawa
“Yazdgird I – He Who Maintains Peace in his Dominion: Re-Examining the Rise and Fall of Romano-Iranian Relations in the Early Fifth Century”
2018-19 Member, UTM Research Committee

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Department of Historical Studies

2019 – Program Director, History of Religions Program
2020 Member, Promotion to Full Professor Committee for Prof. Sarianna Metso
2018-19 Member, Promotion to Full Professor Committee for Prof. Elspeth Brown
2018-19 Member, Tenure Committee for Prof. Boris Chrubasik
2018-19 Member, Graduate Expansion Committee, Workload Policy Committee, Constitution Committee

- 2016 Member, Graduate Expansion Committee
- 2015 Member, Search Committee for Asst. Professor in Roman History and Material Culture
- 2014 Member, Search Committee for Asst. Professor in Religion and Media
- 2013 Member, Search Committee for Chair of Department of Historical Studies
- 2012 Member, Search Committee for Asst. Professor in Ancient Greek History
- 2011 Member, Search Committee for Asst. Professor in Latin American History
- 2011 – Member, Teaching Excellence and Student Experience Committees

Department for the Study of Religion

- 2018-19 Member, Third-Year Review Committee for Prof. Nada Moutaz
- 2018-19 Examiner, Graduate French Reading Exam
- 2017 Reviewer for University of Toronto Undergraduate Humanities Excellence Scholarship
- 2016 Fourth-Year Review Committees for Prof. Yigal Nizri and Prof. Amanda Goodman
- 2012 – Annual Graduate Student Professionalization Seminars on “The Academic Job Interview” and “Preparing for the Academic Job Market”
- 2011-12 Graduate Student Curriculum Committee

LANGUAGES

Ancient: Syriac; Greek; Latin

Modern: French; German

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Canadian Society for Syriac Studies (since 2011)

North American Patristics Society (since 2004)

Society of Biblical Literature (since 2004)

REFERENCES

Adam H. Becker

Professor of Religious Studies and Classics; Director, Religious Studies Program
Department of Classics, New York University | adam.becker@nyu.edu

Elizabeth A. Clark

John Carlisle Kilgo Professor Emerita of the History of Christianity
Department of Religion, Duke University | lizclark@duke.edu

Lucas Van Rompay

Professor Emeritus of Eastern Christianity
Department of Religion, Duke University | rompay@duke.edu