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## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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- 2025- Assistant Professor, Department of Ancient and Medieval Languages and Cultures  
 The Catholic University of America  
 Faculty of Semitic Languages  
 Faculty of Greek & Latin
- 2023- Visiting Assistant Professor of Early Christian Studies, Department of Semitic and  
 Egyptian Languages and Literatures  
 The Catholic University of America

## EDUCATION

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- Ph.D. Duke University, Graduate Program in Religion, 2022  
 Major area: Early Christianity  
 Minor areas: New Testament & Medieval Latin  
 Dissertation: “Human Perfection in the Thought of Bābai the Great: Tradition  
 and Development in East Syrian Theology”
- M.T.S. University of Notre Dame, Department of Theology, 2016  
 Major area: History of Christianity
- B.A. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2014  
 Philosophy & Religious Studies with highest honors, minor in Ancient Greek  
 Morehead-Cain Merit Scholar
- One-year liberal arts degree, Augustine College, *summa cum laude*, 2010

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-Reviewed Articles

- (forthcoming) “Entangled Knowledge: Resituating Medicine and Theology in Late Ancient Nisibis” in  
*Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 81 (2027).
- (forthcoming) with Ian Mills, “The Gospel of Bardaiṣan: Arabic Chronicles, Ephrem the Syrian, and  
 Synoptic-type Gospels” in *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 35.2 (2027)
- (forthcoming) “The Healing of the Scars of Christ: A Surprising East Syriac Tradition,” in *The Journal  
 of Theological Studies* (2026)

2024 “The Embryological Interpretation of Gen 2.7 and its Use in Dyophysite Christology,” *Zeitschrift für Antikes Christentum / Journal of Ancient Christianity* 28.2 (2024): 303-325.

2021 “Sterile Virgins and Procreative Texts: Platonic Verbal Reproduction in Methodius’s *Symposium*,” *Studia Patristica* 126 (2021): 407-424.

(under review) “Babai the Great, Deification, and the Exchange of Properties: A Development in East Syriac Christology” in *The Harp: A Review of Syriac and Oriental Studies*

### Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

(under review) “Contemplation as Healing of Self-Knowledge in Isaac of Nineveh”

(under review) “Cappadocians in Persia: Preliminary Observations on the Sources for Babai the Great’s Metaphysics of Individuation”

### Peer-Reviewed Translations

(forthcoming) Henri Caffarel, “Marriage and the Eucharist” (translation of “Mariage et eucharistie,” *L’anneau d’or: cahier de spiritualité familiale* 117-118 [1964]: 243-264) in *Nova et Vetera*

### Book Reviews & Conference Reports

(forthcoming) Review of Christine Shepardson, *A Memory of Violence: Syriac Christianity and the Radicalization of Religious Difference in Late Antiquity* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2025) in *Journal of Early Christian Studies*. [invited]

2025 Review of Steven J. Davis, *The Gnostic Chapters: A Critical Edition and Translation of Evagrius Ponticus’ Kephalaia Gnostika in Arabic*, *Arabic Christianity* 5 (Leiden: Brill, 2023) in *The Journal of Eastern Christian Studies* 77 (2025): 142-143. [invited]

2025 Review of *The Book of Union of Babai the Great: English Translation with Edited Syriac Text*, ed. Mar Awa III Royel, trans. Michael J. Birnie, *Texts and Studies in Eastern Christianity* 32 (Leiden: Brill, 2024) in *Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies* 28.1 (2025): 289-294.

2018 Report of “De Malo: Evil and Theodicy in Late Antiquity,” Duke-UNC Center for Late Ancient Studies Symposium, in *Ancient Jew Review*, October 1 (co-authored with Taylor Ross)

2018 Review of Charles Stang, *Our Divine Double* (Harvard University Press, 2016) in *Ancient Jew Review*, March 12

### AWARDS & HONORS

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2026-2027	Cultivating Virtue Project, Catholic University of America
2026	Dean’s Funding Award, College of Arts & Sciences, Catholic University of America
2021-2022	Junior Fellow in Byzantine Studies, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library
2021-2022	One-Year Research Grant, Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD)[declined]
2020-2021	Graduate Affiliate, Manuscript Migration Lab, Duke University

2020-2021	Dissertation Research Travel Award: International, Duke University
2019-2021	Arcapita Summer Research Fellowship, Duke University
2017-2020	James B. Duke Fellowship, Duke University
2014-2015	Bernard Boyd Memorial Fellowship, UNC-CH Department of Religious Studies
2014	Bernard Boyd Memorial Prize, UNC-CH Department of Religious Studies
2013	Phi Beta Kappa, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2010-2014	Morehead-Cain Merit Scholarship, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2011-2014	NC Fellows Program, Carolina Leadership Development, Chapel Hill, NC
2010	Andrew B. Sterling Award for Social and Academic Excellence, Augustine College

## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

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### Invited Lectures

- 2025 “Reading Medicine and Theology in the Same Light? Entangled Knowledge in East Syriac Christianity,” Hamilton College, April 24
- 2025 “The Healing of Christ’s Scars: A Surprising East Syriac Tradition,” The Catholic University of America, Department of Greek and Latin, February 13
- 2022 “Ways of Knowing & the Production of Syriac Thought at the End of Late Antiquity,” Saint Louis University, Department of Theological Studies, February 21

### Conference Presentations

- [2026] “Deification by Likeness in the Ascetic Theology of Babai the Great,” 14th Symposium Syriacum & 12th Conference of Christian Arabic Studies, Bucharest, Romania, August 3-7 [invited]
- 2026 “Revisiting Theodore of Mopsuestia on Deification and the Ontological Transformation of Human Nature” North American Patristics Society, Chicago, May 21-23
- 2025 “Deification by Light: Babai the Great and an East Syriac Concept of Deification,” Syriac Studies Unit, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston, November 22-25
- 2025 “Babai the Great, Deification, and the Exchange of Properties: A Development in East Syriac Christology,” International Syriac Conference and Ruby Jubilee Celebration of the St. Ephrem Ecumenical Research Institute (SEERI), Kottayam, India, Sept 14-19 [invited]
- 2025 “Two New Fragments of Ephrem’s *Prose Refutations* and the East Syriac Reception of Ephrem,” North American Patristics Society, Chicago, May 22-24
- 2024 “Dionysius bar Šalibi as a Reader of Evagrius,” The Père Paul Symposium and Lecture, Hidden Pearl Institute and Press & The Institute for the Study of Eastern Christianity, The Catholic University of America, September 26 [invited]
- 2024 “Cappadocians in Persia: The Development of Cappadocian Metaphysics in the Christology of Babai the Great,” XIX International Conference on Patristics Studies, Oxford (UK), August 5-9 [invited]
- 2024 “Resituating the Eschatology of Evagrius of Pontus in Late Ancient Philosophies of Change,” North American Patristics Society, Chicago, May 23-25

- 2024 “Contemplative Prayer as Therapy for Self-Knowledge in Isaac of Nineveh and his East Syriac Sources,” *Ascetic Practices and the Mind in Eastern Christianity*, Institute for the Study of Eastern Christianity, The Catholic University of America, March 1-2 [invited]
- 2023 “Seeing Divinity in Elevated Humanity: *Theōsis* in the Later ‘Nestorian’ Tradition,” International Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference, Villanova University, October 27-29
- 2023 “Interpreting New Textual Evidence for the East Syrian Commentary on Mark the Monk’s *On the Spiritual Law*,” Ninth North American Syriac Symposium, Yale University, June 11-14
- 2022 “The Formation of Adam and the Formation of Christ: Genesis 2 in the Christology of Bābai the Great,” Development of Early Christian Theology Unit, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Denver, November 19-22
- 2022 “The Wonder of the Temporary Scars of Christ: An Unnoticed East Syriac Exegetical Tradition,” North American Patristics Society, Chicago, May 26-28
- 2021 “East Syrian Afterlives: Bābai the Great Reading Evagrius on Human Progress and Perfection,” International Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference, Villanova University, October 15-17
- 2021 “Dyophysite Deification: Bābai the Great on the Paršōpā of Filiation,” North American Patristics Society, Chicago, May 21-23
- 2021 “The Vegetating Christ: Embryology and Exegesis in Bābai the Great’s Adam Christology” Dorushe Graduate Student Syriac Conference, Saint Louis University, May 1-2
- 2020 “Inhabiting a Different World: Neoplatonic Asceticism and Ecological Thought in a World of Change,” Platonism and Neoplatonism Unit, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Virtual Conference, November 21-24
- 2019 “Sterile Virgins and Procreative Texts: Platonic Intertexts in Methodius’s *Symposium*,” XVIII International Conference on Patristics Studies, Oxford (UK), August 19-24
- 2018 “Erotic Pedagogy in Gregory of Nyssa’s *First Homily on the Lord’s Prayer*,” Platonism and Neoplatonism Unit, “Eros and Ascent” Working Group, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, November 17-20
- 2018 “Disciplinary Mechanisms in Basil of Caesarea’s *Great Asketikon*?” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Denver, November 17-20
- 2018 “Erotic Virgins: Psychagogy and Traces of Platonic Writing in Methodius’s *Symposium*,” North American Patristics Society, Chicago, May 24-26
- 2015 “Natural Law & Jewish-Christian Dialogue in David Novak and Robert P. George,” Church & Synagogue: Conceptions of Community in Jewish and Christian Thought, University of Notre Dame, November 8-9

### **Workshops and Departmental Talks**

- 2026 “Entangled Knowledge: Resituating Medicine and Theology in Late Ancient Nisibis,” First Millenium Network Works-in Progress Seminar, Washington, February 20
- 2025 “Manichaean Middle Persian,” Really Dead Languages II, The Catholic University of America, February 2

- 2024 “‘And we shall be changed’: Resituating the Eschatology of Evagrius of Pontus within Late Ancient Philosophies of Change,” Center for the Study of Early Christianity, The Catholic University of America, February 7
- 2021 “The Zoophyte Christ? Embryology and Exegesis in Bābai the Great’s Adam Christology,” Christianity in Antiquity, Duke-UNC working group, Durham, October 13
- 2019 “Male or Female, Jew or Greek? Hierarchical Binaries in Maximus the Confessor’s *Ambiguum* 10,” Theology & Ethics Colloquium, Duke University, September 2
- 2018 “Apophatic Strategies in Marius Victorinus’s Trinitarian Theology,” Theology & Ethics Colloquium, Duke University, April 20

### Conferences & Symposia Organized

- 2025 Seminar by Samuel Pomeroy on Erik Peterson, “The Problem of Nationalism in Ancient Christianity,” Center for the Study of Early Christianity, The Catholic University of America, December 17
- 2020 “Material Culture in Motion: The Migrations of Late Ancient Objects,” Elizabeth A. Clark Center for Late Ancient Studies Spring Symposium, March 26 [cancelled due to pandemic]
- 2019 “Race and Ethnicity in Classical and Late Antiquity,” Elizabeth A. Clark Center for Late Ancient Studies Spring Symposium, Duke University, March 29 [co-organized with Taylor Ross, and Tori Lee]
- 2017 “The Use and Abuse of History for Theology,” Graduate Conference in Theology, Duke University, September 29-30

### Other Public Events

- 2022 “Introduction” and moderator for online panel “Synodality in the Ancient Church” (with Robin Darling Young and Christopher M. Bellitto), Lumen Christi Institute, September 6
- 2023- Guest on Podcast, *New Testament Review* (“Brock, *The Bible in the Syriac Tradition*”; “Marcion as a Textual Critic”; “Rodney Stark, *The Rise of Christianity*”)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Instructor of Record

*The Catholic University of America* (Undergraduate)

The Rise of Christianity (2026)

Intermediate Greek (Plato, *Apology*) (2025)

History of the Christian Near East (co-taught with Janet Timbie) (2025)

Elementary Latin I-II (2024-2025)

Spiritual Athletes: Monks and Martyrs in Early Christianity (2024)

*The Catholic University of America* (Graduate)

Introduction to Syriac I-II (2023-2024, 2025-2026)

Readings in Classical Armenian (2026)

The Mediterranean World of Late Antiquity (2025)

Seminar in Syriac Patristics (2024: Church and Empire in Syriac Literature; 2025: Ephrem the Syrian)

History of the Christian Near East (co-taught with Janet Timbie) (2025)  
 Spiritual Athletes: Monks and Martyrs in Early Christianity (2024)  
 Syriac Literature I (2023: Syriac Biblical Interpretation, 2024: Syriac Survey)  
 Syriac Literature II (2024: Syriac Narratives)

*Meredith College*

Christian Origins: From Cult to Empire (2019)

*Duke GBHEM Course of Study*

Theological Heritage II: Early Church (2020Su, 2021Sp, 2021Su, 2022Sp, 2023F)

Introduction to Bible (2020F, 2023Sp, 2023F, 2024Sp)

*Duke Divinity School*

Hellenistic Greek I-II (2018-2019)

**Preceptor**

*Duke Divinity School*

Modern European Christianity, for Sujin Pak

Early and Medieval Christianity, for J. Warren Smith

Christianity's Surprise, for C. Kavin Rowe

**Teaching Assistant**

*University of Notre Dame*

The Catholic Faith, for Anthony Pagliarini

Christian Theological Tradition I, for Msgr. Michael Heintz

The Catholic Faith, for John Cavadini

**EDITORIAL ACTIVITY**

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2026- Member of Editorial Board, *CUA Studies in Early Christianity*  
 2022- Book Review Editor, *Ancient Jew Review*  
 2022- Annotations Committee, Gorgias Press Syriac-English Antioch Bible

Peer reviewer for:

*Dumbarton Oaks Papers* (2024), *Religions* (2024), *Studia Patristica* (2025), Oxford Bibliographies (2025)

Book manuscripts for Catholic University of America Press (2025) and *Texts and Translations of Transcendence and Transformation (4T)*, Harvard Divinity School, Center for the Study of World Religions (2024)

**SERVICE**

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*Academic Societies*

2023- Awards and Prizes Committee, The North American Patristics Society  
 2021-2022 Graduate Student Representative, The North American Patristics Society

*The Catholic University of America*

2025- Director, Institute of Christian Oriental Research

2025- Member, Board of Early Christian Studies

- 2025- Director of Graduate Studies, Program in Early Christian Studies
- 2025- Teaching Fellow Advisor, Department of Ancient and Medieval Languages and Cultures (& organizing graduate student Teaching & Learning lunch series)
- 2025- PhD Dissertation Director
- A.J. Lopez, “The Meaning and Function of Poetry in Ephrem” (Early Christian Studies)
  - Wilson Philip, “Exploring the Liturgical Significance of the Three-Day Rogation of Nineveh in Light of the “*Memre* of St. Ephrem” (CUA ICOR Syriac Ms. 5)” (Semitics)
  - Meghan Howard, “Najm al-Sahra: A Critical Edition of the Arabic Letters of Saint Antony” (Semitics)
  - Boby Varghese, “Jacob of Serugh’s Homilies on the Holy Eucharist: Critical Edition and Translation along with a Comparison with Ephrem’s Eucharistic Exegesis” (Semitics) (defended Spring 2026)
  - Paul Davis, “The Social Function of Christian-Muslim Disputation Texts from the Early Abbasid Period” (Semitics) (defended Fall 2025)
  - Brett LaPrad, “Biblical Canon in Syriac: A Study in Authority and Transmission” (Semitic & Egyptian Languages and Literatures) (defended Spring 2025)
  - Reese Hartmann, “The Matter of Nagran: Reframing the Literary Sources” (Semitic & Egyptian Languages and Literatures) (defended Spring 2025)
- 2024- PhD Dissertation Reader
- Asha Mathai, “The *Book of Life* in the Syrian Tradition: Its Origins, Evolution, and Liturgical Use in the Syrian Orthodox Church” (Liturgical Studies)
  - Milan Kanone (DMin, School of Theology and Religious Studies)
  - Jake Weiner, “Angels and the Angelic Life in the Writings of Evagrius Ponticus” (Early Christian Studies)
  - Luke Gossett, “The Discourse Uses of the Adverb ‘*attáb*’ (Semitics, Ancient Near East) (defended Fall 2025)
  - James Duguid, “Metaphors for Nothingness in Isaiah 40-66,” (Semitic & Egyptian Languages and Literatures) (defended Spring 2024)
- 2023- Comprehensive Exam Committees
- PhD Semitic & Egyptian Languages and Literatures (Syriac Studies): Wilson Antony (Spring 2024), Darren Duke (Fall 2025), Fadhma Izri (Fall 2025)
  - PhD Semitic & Egyptian Languages and Literatures (Christian Arabic): Wilson Antony (Spring 2024), Darren Duke (Fall 2025), Fadhma Izri (Fall 2025)
  - PhD in Liturgical Studies: Patrick Keyser (Minor: Early Christian Cult of the Saints; Spring 2025)
  - PhD in Early Christian Studies: A.J. Lopez (Fall 2025)
  - MA Early Christian Studies: A.J. Lopez (Spring 2025); Luke Villareal (Spring 2026)
  - MA Syriac Language: Fadhma Izri (Spring 2025), Tolomeo L. Mújica-Martorell (Spring 2025), Joseph Richard (Fall 2023), Darren Duke (Fall 2023)
  - MA Byzantine & Medieval Studies: Adrienne Ora (Spring 2024)
- 2024- Modern Language Exam Evaluator, Department of Semitic and Egyptian Languages (German, French)

*Duke University*

2020-2021 Graduate Coordinator, Elizabeth A. Clark Center for Late Ancient Studies, Duke University

- 2018-2020 Graduate Student Representative, Executive Committee of the Graduate Program in Religion, Duke University
- 2018-2020 Graduate Coordinator, Duke–UNC-Chapel Hill Religion, Culture, and Theory Reading Group

*Service to the Church and Community*

- 2025 Translator, *International Commission on English in the Liturgy*
- 2025 Subject Tutor leading “Introductory Greek,” *The Catherine Project*

## **OTHER ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

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- 2022-2023 Translated early modern Latin and Middle High German sources for book project of Scott Hendrix (emeritus, Princeton University).
- 2020-2021 Graduate Affiliate, Manuscript Migration Lab, Duke University
- 2019-2021 Research Assistant for C. Kavin Rowe, Duke Divinity School
- 2019-2020 Research Assistant for L. Gregory Jones, Duke Divinity School
- 2019F Research Assistant for Elizabeth A. Clark, Duke University

## **LANGUAGES**

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### **Professional reading competency**

#### Pre-Modern

Classical and Byzantine Greek, Latin, Syriac and other dialects of Aramaic, Classical Arabic, Old Armenian, Middle Persian & Parthian, Biblical Hebrew, Sahidic Coptic (intermediate)

#### Modern

English (native), German (B2 conversational ability), Spanish (B1 conversational ability), Modern Standard Arabic (A1 conversational ability), French (reading), Italian (reading)

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

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Academy of Catholic Theology  
 North America Patristics Society  
 Society of Biblical Literature  
 American Academy of Religion

## **REFERENCES**

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### **J. Warren Smith**

Professor of Historical Theology  
 Duke Divinity School  
 Box 90968  
 Durham, NC 27708  
 (919) 660-3415  
 wsmith@div.duke.edu

### **Robin Darling Young**

Ordinary Professor of Church History  
Catholic University of America  
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**Sarah B. Ferrario**

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**Thomas Clemmons**

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