

Michelle C. Freeman
Curriculum Vitae
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EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor of Classics & History, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL
(August 2024-present)

Adjunct Professor, Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte, VA (April-June 2024)

EDUCATION

PhD, Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2024)

M.A., Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2021)

B.A., History, The Ohio State University (2018)

PUBLICATIONS

Under Review

“‘Clothed with Mourning and Grief’: Consolation, Lament, and *Ethopoiia* in the Pseudo-Dionysian Epistle to Timothy on the Death of the Apostles Peter and Paul”

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Seeing Sanctity: John Chrysostom’s Use of Optics in His Homilies on the Saints.” *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 31.2 (2023): 171-200.

“Body and Senses in Ephrem’s *Madrashē contra haereses* and *Madrashē de fide*: Polemics and Epistemology.” *Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies* 25.2 (2022): 417-54.

“Antithesis and Paradox in the *Epistle to Diognetus*.” *Vigiliae Christianae* 75.4 (2021): 1-23.

Book Reviews

Review of *Interacting with Saints in the Late Antique and Medieval Worlds*, edited by Robert Wiśniewski, Raymond Van Dam, and Bryan Ward-Perkins (Brepols, 2023). *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 33.2 (2024): 311-13.

Web-Based Publications

Review of *Invitation to Syriac Christianity: An Anthology*, edited by Michael Penn, Scott Fitzgerald Johnson, Christine Shepardson, and Charles Stang, *Religion*. 12 June 2023.

Review of *The Narrative Shape of Emotion in the Preaching of John Chrysostom*, by Blake Leyerle, *Ancient Jew Review*. 9 November 2022.

Review of *The Early Modern Invention of Late Antique Rome*, by Nicola Denzey Lewis, *Reading Religion*. July 2022.

Review of *Revisioning John Chrysostom: New Approaches, New Perspectives*, edited by Chris de Wet and Wendy Mayer, *Reading Religion*. July 2021.

Review of *Bishops in Flight: Exile and Displacement in Late Antiquity*, by Jennifer Barry, *Reading Religion*. February 2021. Published under "Michelle Sdao."

"The (De-)Mystification of Christian Origins." Review of William Arnal and Sydney Castillo podcast "Ancient Christian Origins: A Heterogenous History," *The Religious Studies Project*. February 2021. Published under "Michelle Sdao."

Review of *Fakes, Forgeries, and Fictions: Writing Ancient and Modern Christian Apocrypha*, by Tony Burke, ed., *Reading Religion*. April 2020. Published under "Michelle Sdao."

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Dumbarton Oaks Junior Fellowship in Byzantine Studies, Autumn 2023.

A. G. Leventis Foundation Award for Medieval Greek Summer Course at Gennadius Library, Athens, 2023.

UNC Religious Studies Department Summer Research Grant, 2023.

UNC Religious Studies Department Peer Teaching Award, 2023.

UNC Summer Research Fellowship, 2022.

UNC Robert Miller Graduate Student Travel Award, 2021 & 2023.

UNC Initiative for Minority Excellence Top-Up Award, 2018.

OTHER EDUCATION

Beth Mardutho/Dorushe, "Syriac on Site: Literary and Material Geography of the Syriac World." Travel course conducted in southeastern Turkey. 8-21 July 2024.

Medieval Greek Summer Course at Gennadius Library, American School of Classical Studies, Athens. 26 June-27 July 2023.

Dumbarton Oaks/HMML Intermediate Syriac Summer School. 13 July-7 August 2021.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Papers Presented

“Relic Veneration, East and West: A False Dichotomy.” Byzantine Studies Conference. October 2024. New York City, NY. (forthcoming)

“‘A Compelling Motive for Mixing’: Cultivating Consensus in Late Antique Homilies on Martyrs.” North American Patristics Society. Chicago, IL. 24 May 2024.

“Lay-Clerical Cooperation in the Cult of Martyrs: Evidence from Extra-Mural Basilicas.” Society of Biblical Literature. San Antonio, TX. 19 November 2023.

“Competition or Cooperation? Episcopal Attitudes Toward the Cult of Martyrs in Late Antiquity.” Society of Biblical Literature. San Antonio, TX. 21 November 2023.

“Lay-Clerical Cooperation in the Cult of Martyrs: Evidence from Extra-Mural Cemetery Basilicas.” Canadian Society of Patristic Studies/Association canadienne des études patristiques. Toronto, Canada. 28 May 2023.

“Body and Senses in Ephrem’s *Madrache contra haereses* and *Madrache de fide*: Polemics and Epistemology.” Society of Biblical Literature. Denver, CO. 21 November 2022.

“Learning Lament, Producing Presence”: Emotional Education in the Pseudo-Dionysian *Epistle to Timothy on the Death of the Apostles Peter and Paul*.” North American Patristics Society. Chicago, IL. 27 May 2022.

“Body and Senses in Ephrem’s *Madrache contra haereses* and *Madrache de fide*: Polemics and Epistemology.” Graduate Conference on Early Christian Studies. Notre Dame. 24 May 2022.

“‘Seeing Him from Afar’: Ritualized Visuality and John Chrysostom’s Use of Optics in His Homilies on the Saints.” Society of Biblical Literature, San Antonio, TX. 22 November 2021.

“‘Seeing Him From Afar’: Embodied Sanctity and John Chrysostom’s Use of Optics.” North American Patristics Society. 27 May 2021 [Conducted online due to COVID-19].

“‘Seeing Him from Afar’: Haptic Vision and Embodied Memory in John Chrysostom’s *Homily on Saint Meletius*.” UNC Charlotte Religious Studies Graduate Conference on “Sensory Cultures of Religion.” 14 March 2020.

“The Johannine Paraclete: Early Proof Texts in the New Prophecy.” Southeast Commission for the Study of Religion, Athens, GA. 28 February 2020.

“Polycarp of Smyrna: Historical Enigma and Literary Legacies.” Society of Biblical Literature Midwest Regional Student Conference. 2 February 2018.

Discussant

“Method and Theory in the Study of Religion” review panel. Southeast Commission for the Study of Religion, Athens, GA. 28 February 2020.

Respondent to Denise Kimber Buell, “Race & Ethnicity in Classical and Late Antiquity.” Duke Elizabeth A. Clark Center for Late Ancient Studies. 29 March 2019.

TEACHING

Southern Illinois University

Historical Introduction to the New Testament (AU 2024)

Roman Civilization (AU 2024)

Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte Campus

Elementary Biblical Greek I & II (Spring II [April-June] 2024)

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Jesus in the Early Christian Gospels (SP 2024)

Introduction to Hebrew Bible/Old Testament (SU 2023)

Varieties of Early Christianity (SP 2023)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editorial Assistant, *Journal of Early Christian Studies*, August 2022-July 2024

Graduate Student Representative, North American Patristics Society, 2022-2024

Student Coordinator, UNC-Duke Christianity in Antiquity Reading Group, 2020-2023

INVITED AND GUEST LECTURES

“‘Crowned in Word’: Panegyric and Pedagogy in Early Byzantine Homilies on Martyrs.” Dumbarton Oaks Research Library Research Presentation. 29 November 2023.

“Gospel of Thomas: A Non-Canonical Gospel.” Guest Lecture, UNC RELI 207: Jesus in Myth, Tradition, and History. 6 June 2022.

“Introduction to Christianity.” Guest Lecture, UNC RELI 102: World Religions. 3 February 2022.

“I am a Christian’: Martyrdom and Persecution in the Early Church.” Guest Lecture, UNC RELI 209: Varieties of Early Christianity. 30 September 2021.

“Relic Discoveries: Deception or Divine Disclosure?” Guest Lecture, UNC RELI 315: Religious Frauds: Lies, Forgeries, and Fake News. 15 April 2021.

“Penance, Heresy, and Schism: The Spatial and Corporeal Politics of Early Christianity.” Guest Lecture, UNC RELI 214: Early Christian Bodies and Ritual. November 2020.

“Gender, Bodily Fluids, and Ritual.” Guest Lecture, UNC RELI 214: Early Christian Bodies and Ritual. November 2020.

“Finalizing the Christian Canon.” Guest lecture, UNC RELI 104: Introduction to the New Testament. April 2019.

“Armenian Christianity.” Guest Lecture, UNC RELI 225: Christian Cultures: Eastern and Orthodox Christianities. 25 October 2018.

“Nicene Christianity.” Guest Lecture, UNC RELI 225: Christian Cultures: Eastern and Orthodox Christianities. August 2018.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Bart Ehrman, August 2020-May 2022

LANGUAGES

Ancient (research proficiency): Greek, Syriac, Latin, Coptic

Modern (reading proficiency): French, German, Spanish, Modern Greek

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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