

# Kyle Smith

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University of Toronto  
Jackman Humanities Building  
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Toronto, Ont. M5R 2M8 – CANADA

## EMPLOYMENT

2011– **Assistant Professor, University of Toronto**  
Department of Historical Studies, UTM (Primary/Undergraduate Appointment)  
Department for the Study of Religion, UTSG (Graduate Appointment)  
Centre for Medieval Studies, UTSG (Associated 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

- In Preparation* with J.-N. Mellon Saint-Laurent, *The History of Mar Behnam and Sarah*. Persian Martyr Acts in Syriac: Text and Translation, 5. Piscataway: Gorgias Press.
- 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 and F. Lauritzen. 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

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

- 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 Šabba‘e*”  
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

- 2016 “The Islamic State, Syriac Historiography, and a Sasanian Martyrs’ Shrine”  
Meeting of the North American Patristics Society, Chicago
- 2015 “Constantine and the Captive Christians of Persia”  
XVII<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford University
- 2015 “Was There ‘Religion’ in Sasanian Persia?”  
VII<sup>th</sup> 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”  
VI<sup>th</sup> 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*”  
XV<sup>th</sup> 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*”  
V<sup>th</sup> 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

- 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

- 2016 RLG 340-F: Christmas: A Social 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

## **DIGITAL HUMANITIES INITIATIVES**

- 2015 RLG 203, Introduction to Christianity – Online  
*Online course incorporating LitGenius and SharpScholar.*
- 2014 – Area Editor for Sasanian Persia, The Syriac Gazetteer at Syriaca.org

## **GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING**

- 2015 Dissertation Reader, Khalid Dinno  
Ph.D. Candidate, Dept. of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations  
*The Syrian Orthodox Christians in the Late Ottoman and Early Post-Ottoman Period*
- 2015 Dissertation Reader, Emmanuel Joseph Mar-Emmanuel  
Ph.D. Candidate, Dept. of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations  
*The Book of Resh Melle by Yohannan bar Penkaye: An Introduction to the Text and a Study of its Literary Genres*
- 2012 – Co-Supervisor, Ashoor Yousif  
Ph.D. Candidate, Dept. for the Study of Religion  
*Christians and Muslims in Early Abbasid Iraq*
- 2011 – Co-Supervisor, Maria Dasios  
Ph.D. Candidate, Dept. for the Study of Religion  
*Media and Materiality in Late Ancient Christian Texts*
- 2011 – Co-Supervisor, Rami Tanous  
Ph.D. Candidate, Dept. for the Study of Religion  
*Negotiating the Nativity in Late Antiquity: Christians, Muslims, and the Birth 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**

- 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
- 2008 Convener, Duke Center for Late Ancient Studies Symposium on “Erasure and Effacement: Destruction of Text and Image in Late Antiquity”

## **DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

### Department of Historical Studies

- 2011 – Member, Teaching Excellence and Student Experience Committees
- 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

### Department for the Study of Religion

- 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)

## **CITIZENSHIP**

U.S. Citizen and Canadian Permanent Resident

## REFERENCES

### **Adam H. Becker**

Associate 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

### **James B. Rives**

William R. Kenan Eminent Professor and Chair of Classics  
Department of Classics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
jbrives@email.unc.edu

### **Lucas Van Rompay**

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