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## ***CURRICULUM VITAE***

### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2020-pres. Associate Professor of Middle Eastern History, Oklahoma State University  
2014-2020 Assistant Professor of Middle Eastern History, Oklahoma State University  
2012-2014 Postdoc (Medieval Middle East), History Department, Princeton University

### CURRENT RESEARCH

- Co-editor of a primary source reader for Christian-Muslim relations (my section includes Armenian, Syriac, and Persian selections)
- Book project: *Mosaics in Earthquake Country: Diversity & Islamization in the Medieval Middle East* (tentative title) explores the social impact of Middle Eastern religious and ethnic diversity in the period ca. 950-1500. For example, Armenians maintained a governmental and military tradition that participated in Muslim governance from Fatimid Egypt to Qaraqoyunlu Iran, and both Islam and Christianity continued to be shaped by their long cohabitation across the medieval Middle East.
- Article on Christian and Jewish participation in late medieval “Islamic” medicine.
- Article on the revival of the Armenian catholicosate of Ējmiacin in 1443, falsely remembered in later historiography as a “transfer” rather than an ecclesiastical revolt.
- A book-length edition, translation, and commentary on Īshāq Shbadnāyā’s “Poem on God’s Government from In the Beginning to Eternity.”
- Digital Humanities article on visualizations of time and our mediated access to the past.
- Editor for the digital *Historical Index of the Medieval Middle East* (HIMME).

### EDUCATION

PhD, 2012 Doctor of Philosophy in History, Princeton University  
MA, 2009 Master of Arts in History (*with distinction*), Princeton University  
MSt, 2007 Master of Studies in Syriac Studies (*with distinction*), Oxford University  
MDiv, 2006 Master of Divinity (*summa cum laude*), Trinity Evangelical Divinity School  
BA, 2002 English Literature (*summa cum laude*), University of Washington  
BS, 2002 Math & Computer Science (*with honors, summa cum laude*), U. of Washington

#### *Selected Fellowships, Awards, and Prizes:*

2020 Distinguished Early Career Faculty Award, Oklahoma State University  
2019 Junior Faculty Award for Scholarly Excellence, OSU College of Arts & Sciences  
2011-2012 Whiting Dissertation Fellowship in the Humanities  
2011-2012 Religion & Culture Fellowship, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton Univ.  
2009-2012 Philip A. Rollins Prize, History, Princeton University

2007-2012	Stanley J. Seeger Prize, Program in Hellenic Studies, Princeton University
2007-2009	Shelby Collum and Kathryn Davis Prize, History, Princeton University
2003	Pathfinder Award, Puget Sound Association of ΦBK
2002	Dean's Medal, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Washington
2000	President's Junior Medal, University of Washington

### EXTRAMURAL GRANTS

2019-2021	National Endowment for the Humanities, Humanities Collections and Reference Resources, \$212,767
Sum. 2017	Subcontract, Qatar National Research Foundation, \$6,000

### SKILLS

#### *Languages:*

Advanced Reading: Armenian (classical), Syriac, Arabic, Greek (Byzantine), French, Spanish  
 Intermediate Reading: Persian, Latin, German, Hebrew (ancient & medieval), Portuguese  
 Elementary Reading: Russian, Turkish (modern), Italian, Romanian  
 Elementary Spoken: French, German, Spanish

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

#### *Undergraduate:*

- Minorities and Diversity in the Middle East
- World History to 1500
- Mongol Empire
- Modern Middle East
- New Testament Intro.
- Medieval Islamic History
- Israel/Palestine since 1800
- Introduction to History

#### *Graduate:*

- Methods in the Historical Study of Religion (Spring 2020)
- Independent Studies (Fall 2014-Spring 2021):
  - Middle Eastern Christianity
  - Minorities and Diversity in the Middle East
  - Religion and Society in Late Antiquity
  - Medieval Middle East
  - The Mongol Empire
  - Israel/Palestine since 1800

### PUBLICATIONS

#### *Book:*

*Christianity in Fifteenth-Century Iraq*, Cambridge Studies in Islamic Civilization (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018).

Reviewed in: *American Historical Review* and *al-'Uşur al-Wuṣṭā*

#### *Co-edited Volume:*

David Thomas, \*Thomas A. Carlson, Johannes Pahlitzsch, Juan Pedro Monferrer Sala, and Graham Barrett, eds., *Bloomsbury Reader in Christian-Muslim Relations, 600-1500* (London: Bloomsbury, *forthcoming*).

\* My responsibility was to commission (or author) and edit entries on medieval sources in Armenian, Persian, and Syriac.

*Articles and Chapters:*

“Syriac in the Polyglot Medieval Middle East: Digital Tools and the Dissemination of Scholarship Across Linguistic Boundaries,” in Aaron Michael Butts and Robin Darling Young, eds., *Syriac Christian Culture: Beginnings to Renaissance* (Washington, DC: CUA Press, forthcoming).

“Faith among the Faithless? Theology as Aid or Obstacle to Islamization in Late Medieval Mesopotamia.” In *Faith and Community around the Mediterranean: In Honor of Peter R. L. Brown*, edited by Petre Guran and David A. Michelson, 227-238. *Études Byzantines et Post Byzantines*, new series, vol. I (VIII). Bucharest, Académie roumaine; Heidelberg: Herlo Verlag UG, 2019 [2020].

“When Did the Middle East Become Muslim? Trends in the Study of Islam’s ‘Age of Conversions,’” in *History Compass* 16 (2018): e12494 (10 pages).

“The Long Shadow of Sasanian Christianity: The Limits of Iraqi Islamization,” in *Mizan* 3 (2018). <http://www.mizanproject.org/journal-post/the-long-shadow-of-sasanian-christianity/> (12,600 words but no page range).

“Syriac in a Diverse Middle East: From the Mongol Ilkhanate to Ottoman Dominance, 1286-1517,” in Daniel King (ed.), *The Syriac World* (London: Routledge, 2018), 718-730.

“Safavids Before Empire: Two Fifteenth-Century Armenian Perspectives,” in *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 49 (2017): 277-294.

“Syriac Christology and Christian Community in the Fifteenth-Century Church of the East,” in H. Teule, E. Keser-Kayaalp, K. Akalın, N. Doru, and M. S. Toprak (eds.), *Syriac in its Multi-Cultural Context* (Eastern Christian Studies 23; Louvain: Peeters, 2017), 265-276.

“Contours of Conversion: The Geography of Islamization in Syria, 600-1500,” in *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 135 (2015): 791-816.

“Formulaic Prose? Rhetoric and Meaning in Late Medieval Syriac Manuscript Colophons,” in *Hugoye* 18 (2015): 379-398.

“The Future of the Past: The Reception of Syriac Qaṭraye Authors in Late Medieval Iraq,” in Mario Kozah, Abdulrahim Abu-Husayn, Saif Shaheen al-Murikhi, and Haya Al-Thani (eds.), *The Syriac Writers of Qatar in the Seventh Century* (Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias, 2014), 169-193.

“History and Self-Concept in the Fifteenth-Century Church of the East: The Works of Iṣḥāq Šbadnāyā and Iṣō‘yahb bar Mqaddam,” *Parole de l’Orient* 38 (2013): 1-13.

“The Nature of the Church (of the East) in Ishaq Shbadnaya’s ‘Poem on the Divine Economy,’” *The Harp: A Review of Syriac and Oriental Studies* 27 (2011): 271-289.

“A Light From ‘the Dark Centuries’: Iṣḥāq Shbadnaya’s Life and Works,” *Hugoye* 14 (2011): 191-214.

*Digital Publications:*

Editor and Principal Investigator, HIMME: *Historical Index of the Medieval Middle East* (forthcoming 2021): <http://www.medievalmideast.org> (demo)

Contributing editor, *Beth Qaṭraye Gazetteer*, ed. Haya Al Thani, Saif al-Murikhi, Abdulrahim Abu-Husayn, George Kiraz, Mario Kozah, & David Michelson (forthcoming).

Co-editor, with David A. Michelson, *The Syriac Gazetteer* (2014): <http://syriaca.org/geo>

*Book Reviews:*

Hugh Goddard, *A History of Christian-Muslim Relations*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University, 2020). In *Medieval Encounters* (forthcoming).

Li Tang & Dietmar W. Winkler, eds., *From the Oxus River to the Chinese Shores: Studies on East Syriac Christianity in China and Central Asia* (Zürich: Lit, 2013). In *Hugoye* 17 (2014): 388-394.

Li Tang, *East Syriac Christianity in Mongol-Yuan China* (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2011). In *Hugoye* 15 (2012): 393-399.

Philip Jenkins, *The Lost History of Christianity: the Thousand-Year Golden Age of the Church in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia--and How It Died* (New York: HarperCollins, 2008). In *Trinity Journal* 31 NS (2010): 164-65.

*Other Academic Publications:*

“Armenian Colophons,” “‘Alā’ al-Dīn ‘Aṭā-Malik Juvaynī,” “Mar Yahballaha and Rabban Sawma,” and “Ishō‘yahb bar Mqaddam” in David Thomas, Thomas A. Carlson, Johannes Pahlitzsch, Juan Pedro Monferrer Sala, and Graham Barrett (eds.), *Bloomsbury Reader in Christian-Muslim Relations, 600-1500* (London: Bloomsbury, forthcoming).

“Ṣalībā b. Yuḥannā al-Mawṣilī” and “Anonymous (Rabban Ṣawma),” in Charles Barber and Foteini Spingou (eds.), *Medieval Texts on Byzantine Art and Aesthetics: From Alexios I Komnenos to the rise of Hesychasm (1081 – ca. 1330)*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming), 14pp.

“A Communal Lament Over Apostasy,” in Nimrod Hurvitz, Christian Sahner, Uriel Simonsohn, and Luke Yarbrough (eds.), *Turning to Mecca: A Sourcebook on Premodern Conversion to Islam* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2020), 280-285.

Mark Dickens and Nicholas Sims-Williams, with contributions by \*Thomas A. Carlson and Christiane Reck, “Christian Calendrical Fragments from Turfan,” in J. Ben-Dov, W. Horowitz, and J. Steele (eds.), *Living the Lunar Calendar* (Calendars and Years 3; Oxford: Oxbow Books, 2012), 269-295.

“Iṣḥaq Shbadnaya,” in Sebastian P. Brock, Aaron M. Butts, George A. Kiraz, and Lucas Van Rompay (eds.), *Gorgias Encyclopedic Dictionary of the Syriac Heritage* (Piscataway, N.J.: Gorgias Press, 2011), 214-215.

*Invited Presentations:*

“Competition in Continuity: Christian and Muslim ‘Mission’ in the Late Medieval Middle East.” To be presented at the Dumbarton Oaks 2020 Byzantine Studies Symposium “Byzantine Missions: Meaning, Nature, and Extent,” Washington, D.C., April 25, 2020. [Postponed to 2022 due to Covid-19]

“For Whom the Bell Tolls: Middle Eastern Christians and the Counter-Crusade in Edessa, 1144,” presented at the Oxford Workshop on “Christian Layers in the History of the Middle East,” Oxford University, March 23, 2019.

“Passing the Torch or Grudging Collaboration? Religious Diversity in ‘Islamic’ Medicine,” presented at the University of Washington, Seattle, WA, May 25, 2018.

“Named Concepts Between Reality and Imagination: Syriaca.org’s Approaches to Historical Places and Persons,” presented at the “Global Philology – Digital Infrastructure for Named Entities Data” workshop, Leipzig University, January 11, 2017.

“More than Conversion: Multi-Faceted Islamization and the Unity of Medieval Middle Eastern History,” presented at “Recovering the Role of Christians in the History of the Middle East” Workshop, Princeton University, May 6, 2016.

“Faith Among the Faithless? Theology as Aid or Obstacle to Islamization in Late Medieval Mesopotamia,” presented at “Faith and Community Around the Mediterranean in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages” Colloquium, New Europe College, Bucharest, Romania, March 7, 2016.

“Cinderella’s Slipper: Seeking Islamic Cultural Phenomena between Universal and Local,” Mediterranean Seminar Panel: “Was there an Islamo-Mediterranean Culture and When?” University of Colorado – Boulder, November 20, 2015.

“Mosaics in Earthquake Country: Religious Diversity and Islamization in Late Medieval Anatolia,” University of Minnesota, November 18, 2015.

“Byzantium as a Middle Eastern Society,” guest seminar, University of Minnesota, November 18, 2015.

“The Future of the Past: The Reception of Syriac Qatraye Authors in Late Medieval Iraq.” Invited presentation for “The Syriac Writers of Qatar in the 7<sup>th</sup> Century C.E.” conference, Qatar University, Doha, Qatar, February 26, 2014.

*Selected Conference and Colloquium Presentations:*

“Moving Beyond Babel and Balkanization: A Digital Tool for the Polyglot Medieval Middle East,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, Zoom, October 14, 2020.

“Enslaving Dhimmis: Rulers, Fiqh, and Religious Diversity in Late Medieval Türkmen States,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, November 15, 2019.

“The Garden of the Reasonable: Inter-Religious Collaboration and Competition in Late Medieval ‘Islamic’ Medicine,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX, November 16, 2018.

“A Tangled Web: Physicians and Religious Elites in the Biographical Dictionaries of al-Qiftī, Ibn Abī Uṣaybi‘a, and al-Mawṣilī,” Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO, June 19, 2018.

“Who Says? A Social History of Syriac Use in the Medieval Islamic Period,” The Future of Syriac Studies Conference, Sigtuna, Sweden, June 14, 2018.

“Muslims, ‘Heretics,’ and Dogs: 11th C Byzantine Rule over Religious Diversity in Syria and Armenia,” Byzantine Studies Conference, Minneapolis, MN, October 5, 2017.

“The Longest Revolution: The Slow Demographic Rise of Islam,” Midwest World History Association, Edmond, OK, September 23, 2017.

“The Long Shadow of Sasanian Christianity: The Limits of Iraqi Islamization to 950,” Middle East Studies Association, Boston, MA, November 18, 2016.

“A Necessary Other: Muslim and Christian Leaders in Medieval Eastern Anatolia and Jazīra,” Middle East Studies Association, Denver, CO, November 22, 2015.

“Syriac in the Polyglot Medieval Middle East: Digital Tools and the Dissemination of Scholarship Across Linguistic Boundaries,” North American Syriac Symposium, Catholic University of America, June 24, 2015.

“Ibn Baṭṭūṭa and Islamicate Cultural Unity in Hodgson’s Middle Periods.” Presented at the Islamicate Studies Symposium: 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Marshall Hodgson’s *Venture of Islam*, University of Chicago, October 18, 2014.

“Formulaic Prose? Colophon Rhetoric and Meaning in Late Medieval Syriac Manuscripts.” Presented at Hugoye Symposium III: Colophons in the Syriac Tradition, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J., May 16, 2014.

“Contours of Conversion: The Geography of Islamization in Syria, 600-1500.” Presented at the Princeton Islamic Studies Colloquium, October 3, 2013.

“Identity and Identification in the Digital Humanities: The Challenges and Experience of Syriaca.org.” Presented at Identity and Authenticity, a Symposium of the Research Group on Manuscript Evidence, Princeton, March 23, 2013.

“Christian History and Christian Identity in Ishaq Shbadnaya and Ishoyahb bar Mqaddam.”  
Presented at Symposium Syriacum XI, University of Malta, Valletta, Malta, July 17, 2012.

“Syriac Christology and Christian Community in the Fifteenth-Century Church of the East.”  
Presented at I. Uluslararası Süryani Sempozyumu – Süryaniler ve Diğer Kültürlerle Etkileşimleri, Mardin Artuklu Üniversitesi, Mardin, Turkey, April 21, 2012.

“Community and Theology in a War Zone: The Christology of the Church of the East under Türkmen Rule.” Presented at the Late Antique, Medieval, and Byzantine History Colloquium, Princeton University, March 28, 2012.

“Christians in Muslim Society: The Case of Fifteenth-Century Jazira and Iraq.” Presented at the Princeton Islamic Studies Colloquium, November 17, 2011.

“Syriac Patriarchs and Muslim Rulers in the Fifteenth Century.” Presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> North American Syriac Symposium, Duke University, June 26-29, 2011.

“The Nature of the Church (of the East) in Ishaq Shbadnaya’s ‘Poem on the Divine Economy.’”  
Presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> World Syriac Conference, Saint Ephrem Ecumenical Research Institute (SEERI), Kottayam, Kerala, India, September 8-16, 2010.

“A Light From the Dark Ages: Ishaq Shbadnaya’s Life and Works.” Presented at the Dorushe Annual Graduate Student Conference on Syriac Studies, Notre Dame University, April 5, 2008.

References available upon request.