

# Christine Luckritz Marquis

Associate Professor of Church History  
Union Presbyterian Seminary

## Contact

Union Presbyterian Seminary  
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## Education

- May 2012                    **Duke University**, Durham, NC  
Doctor of Philosophy in Religion (Early Christianity)  
Preliminary Examination Fields: Early Christianity, Islam, Art History
- May 2004                    **Yale Divinity School**, New Haven, CT  
Master of Arts in Religion, Biblical Studies concentration
- May 2001                    **Illinois Wesleyan University**, Bloomington, IL  
Bachelor of Arts, Religion major

## Academic Positions

- July 2020-present        **Union Presbyterian Seminary**, Richmond, VA  
Associate Professor of Church History
- Aug 2013-June 2020     **Union Presbyterian Seminary**, Richmond, VA  
Assistant Professor of Church History
- Aug 2012-May 2013     **Moravian Theological Seminary**, Bethlehem, PA  
Instructor
- Jan 2012-May 2013     **Lehigh University**, Bethlehem, PA  
Instructor
- Aug 2008-May 2009     **Duke University**, Durham, NC  
Instructor
- Aug-Dec 2004            **Sacred Heart University**, Fairfield, CT  
Instructor

## Publications

### 1. Books

*Death of the Desert: Monastic Memory and the Loss of Egypt's Golden Age*. Divinations; Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, forthcoming (anticipated Fall 2020).

My project considers the interconnection of memory practices, the desert (both as real place and imagined space), and acts of violence in Egypt's northwestern desert in the fourth to fifth centuries C.E. It reexamines how much weight we should place on "barbarian" raids of the monastic center Scetis as a sole explanation for the death of the "Golden Age" of asceticism, as much of that narrative has its own colonialist historiographic heritage. I suggest instead that we re-contextualize through the lens of

violence what ascetics did and where they did it, noting the ways in which ascetic identity was constructed around violent practices. I argue that a particularly violent uncoupling of memory and desert occurred through the violent attack of Theophilus on the desert, an act that opened up a space for the production of the *Sayings of the Desert Fathers* as a portable desert in a new landscape in Gaza.

Author and Translator, with Hans Arneson, Emanuel Fiano and Kyle Smith. *The History of the Great Deeds of Bishop Paul of Qentos and Priest John of Edessa*. Texts from Christian Late Antiquity 29. (Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2010). [Syriac]

Reviews: Michael Penn, *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 19.4 (2011): 612-13.

## 2. Essays in Collections

“Divining Slaves in Late Ancient Egypt.” In *Slavery on the Margins of Empire: Perspectives from Late Antiquity*. Eds. Christopher De Wet, Maijastina Kahlos, and Ville Vuolanto. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.

“Schools and Monasteries.” *Encyclopedia of Religious Ethics*. Volume 1. Hoboken, N.J.: Wiley-Blackwell, forthcoming.

“Life of Mary Magdalene: A New Translation and Introduction.” In *More Christian Apocrypha Series*, vol. 2. Ed. Tony Burke. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2020. 223-238. [Greek]

“Namesake and Inheritance.” In *Melania: Early Christianity Through the Life of One Family*. Edited by Catherine M. Chin and Caroline T. Schroeder. University of California Press, 2016. 34-49. [Peer reviewed manuscript]

“The Encomium on Mary Magdalene: A New Translation and Introduction.” In *More Christian Apocrypha Series*, vol. 1. Eds. Tony Burke and Brent Landau. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2016. 196-216. [Coptic]

## 3. Dictionary Entries

“Athanasius of Alexandria,” “Egeria,” “Mary of Egypt,” and “Melania.” In the *Routledge Dictionary of Ancient Mediterranean Religions*. Eds. Eric Orlin, Lisbeth Fried, Michael Satlow, and Jennifer Knust. New York and London: Routledge, 2015.

## 4. Reviews

Review of J. Patout Burns Jr. and Robin M. Jensen, *Christianity in Roman Africa: The Development of Its Practices and Beliefs* (Wm. B. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 2014) in *Interpretation* 71.1 (2017): 110.

Review of Michael Graves, *The Inspiration and Interpretation of Scripture: What the Early Church Can Teach Us* (Wm. B. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 2014), in *Interpretation* 70.2 (2016): 233.

Review of Blake Leyerle and Robin Darling Young, eds, *Ascetic Culture: Essays in Honor of Philip Rousseau* (South Bend, University of Notre Dame Press, 2013) in *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture* 84.2 (June 2015): 423-25.

Review of Adam Ployd, *Augustine, the Trinity, and the Church: A Reading of the Anti-Donatist Sermons* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015) in *Interpretation* 72.3 (July 2018): 348-49.

### 5. Online Pieces

“The Arrival of Christianity in Himyar and its Later Reimaginings.” *Mizan* (<http://www.mizanproject.org/the-arrival-of-christianity-in-himyar-and-its-later-reimagining/>).

“Encomium on Mary Magdalene.” *North American Society for the Study of Christian Apocryphal Literature*. (<http://www.nasscal.com/e-clavis-christian-apocrypha/encomium-on-mary-magdalene/>).

“Life of Mary Magdalene.” *North American Society for the Study of Christian Apocryphal Literature*. (<http://www.nasscal.com/e-clavis-christian-apocrypha/life-of-mary-magdalene/>).

### 6. In Progress

“*I am a Christian:*” *Naming in Late Antiquity*. Book manuscript in progress.

“‘They are on a path still standing’: The Arabian Peninsula as Palimpsest.” Submission requested by *Journal of International Qur’anic Studies Association*, anticipated submission October 2019. Revision of paper presented November 2017.

“Violence and Community in Yemen: Narrativizing Religious Identity in Himyarite History.” *Journal of Late Antiquity*, anticipated submission to *Journal of Late Antiquity* Spring 2020. Revision of paper presented November 2015.

“Better Off Dead?: Divine Violence and the ‘Discovery’ of Cross-Dressing Ascetics.” *Journal of Early Christian Studies*, anticipated submission to *Journal of Early Christian Studies* Spring 2020. Revision of paper presented May 2018. [Part of a special issue on gender, sex, and sexuality in late ancient studies co-editing with Jennifer Barry.]

“Desert Fathers.” *Brill Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*. Leiden: Brill. In process.

“Dialogue of Mary and Christ on the Departure of the Soul.” In *More Christian Apocrypha Series*, vol. 3. Edited by Tony Burke. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans. In process.

“Placing the Coptic Desert Fathers.” Research/data growth for a digital publication on the spaces of the desert in the Coptic *apophthegmata*.

### **Digital Projects**

2013- present **Coptic Scriptorium** (<http://copticcriptorium.org>)

Collaborative project developing a platform for computational research of texts in the Coptic language. Senior Editor, Encoder/Annotator, Translator.

2001-2002

EIKON Project, **Yale Divinity School**, New Haven, CT  
Researched, prepared, and catalogued images of archaeological sites for educational website.

### **Academic Presentations**

“The Female Face of Southern Arabian Christianity: Narratives of Violence and Christianity in Late Ancient Himyar.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Diego. November 2019.

“Gaming the Council of Chalcedon.” Game Pedagogy: Assessing Its Effectiveness in the Religious Studies Classroom.” Wabash Colloquium, Los Angeles. September 2018.

Politics, Pedagogy, and the Profession: Teaching Politically Charged Topics. North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago. May 2018.

“Better Off Dead?: Divine Violence and the ‘Discovery’ of Cross-Dressing Ascetics.” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago. May 2018.

Politics, Pedagogy, and the Profession: Collaborative Syllabus Workshop. Wabash Colloquium, Boston. November 2017.

“‘They are on a path still standing’: The Arabian Desert as Palimpsest.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston. November 2017.

Respondent, “Charges of Blasphemy in Religious Discourse,” Violence and Representations of Violence in Antiquity Session (SBL) and Comparative Approaches to Religion and Violence Session (AAR). Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston. November 2017.

“Remembering Scripture, Dismembering Idols: Ascetic Mobilization of the Cultural Logics of *Damnatio Memoriae*.” Memory Sanctions and *Damnatio Memoriae*, c. 200-800 AD Conference. Trinity College, Cambridge University. Cambridge, England. September 2017.

“Failure and Forgetting: Ascetics, the Egyptian Desert, and the Serapeum.” Judaism and Christianity in Antiquity, University of Virginia. Charlottesville, VA. December 2016.

“Reimagining the *Apophthegmata Patrum* in a Digital Culture.” 11<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Coptic Studies. Los Angeles, CA. July 2016.

“Violence and Community in Yemen: Narrativizing Religious Identity in Himyarite History.” International Qur’anic Studies Association. Atlanta. November 2015.

“Burning Zeal: Monks, Heresy, and Divinely Ordained Violence.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Baltimore. November 2013.

“Devastating the Egyptian Desert: The “Barbarian” Raid of Scetis in Context.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Chicago. November 2012.

“Displaced Ascetic Bodies: Foucauldian Monsters and the “Barbarian” Raids of Fifth-Century Scetis in the Late Ancient Imagination.” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago. May 2012.

“Memory Between Church and Cell: Transforming the Desert Through Eucharist and Prayer.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Francisco. November 2011.

“Remembering Heaven, Transforming the Desert: Paradisiacal Imaginings in Egyptian Asceticism.” North American Patristics Society, Chicago. May 2010.

“Locating Mary: Paradise and the Domestication of the Virgin Mother.” Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC. March 2009.

“Elastic Martyrs: Response to H. Drake’s ‘Tolerating Violence.’” Violence in Late Antiquity mini-symposium, Duke University, Durham, NC. February 2007.

### **Thesis/Dissertation Committees**

#### *Ph.D. Committees*

Sandra Goehring, “Escape Through a Cloistered Window: Eighth Century Anglo-Saxon Female Missionaries to Germany”  
Committee Member (2013-2018), Director: Stan Skreslet  
An argument for recentering the role of German nuns in the evangelization of Germany. She highlights how the scholarly impulse to ignore hagiography until recently has erased the prominent role women played in the conversion to Christianity of medieval Germany.

Marvin Lindsay, “Divine Grace for Responsible Humans: Theology and Social Location in Columbanian Monasticism”  
Committee Member (2013-2017), Director: Rebecca Weaver  
A study of how the local theology of Columbanian monks shifted over several centuries. He explores how tighter linkage between monasteries and the ruling class shifted Christian understandings of God’s grace.

#### *Th.M. Theses*

Samantha Richardson-Epps, “Disappearing Act: The Life and Afterlives of Augustine,”  
Director (Spring 2016). Reader: Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon  
Thesis explored Augustine’s own ethnic self-identification as African and how subsequent appropriation of his work whitewashed him for much a western Protestant Christianity. The student followed Augustine’s rediscovery by black theologians such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and his unintended echoes in the confessional writings of Ta-Nehisi Coates.

Jason Gerlach, “Security: The Nefarious Intricacies of Evil, the Carceral State, and the Christian Church,”  
Reader (Spring 2017). Director: Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon  
Thesis argued that Christian conceptions of evil, articulated from Christianity’s earliest centuries, were and continue to be deployed to justify the carceral system. Attending to the ways that evil is expressed through color, the thesis highlights how this linkage has justified the greater incarceration of African American bodies and the Church’s complicity in such systemic injustices.

### **Archaeological Experience**

May-Jun 2009      **Yale Monastic Archaeological Project – North** (Formerly EDMAP),  
Registrar, Wadi-n-Natrun, Egypt.

May-Jun 2006, 2007 **Egyptian Delta Monastic Archaeological Project** (EDMAP),

Field Archaeologist, Wadi-n-Natrun, Egypt

### **Research Interests**

Early Christian asceticism, Eastern Christianities, early Egyptian and Syriac Christianities, Coptic literature, Syriac literature, early Islam, Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations in Late Antiquity and Byzantium, material culture and archaeology, Digital Humanities, liturgical history, violence and trauma theory, memory theory, spatial theory, social construction of bodies, gentrification, food justice, gender studies, critical race and ethnicity theory.

### **Courses Taught**

History of Christianity to the Reformation  
 The Roles of Women in the Christian Tradition  
 Sex, Money, Politics in the Ancient Church  
 Christianity, Judaism, and Islam in Conversation and Conflict  
 Reading the Christian Body  
 Ascetics, Monastics, and Mystics  
 Pilgrimage among Early Christians  
 Coptic Language  
 Christianity and Islam in Late Antiquity  
 The Christian Tradition  
 India Travel Seminar  
 Latin American Travel Seminar  
 The Mother of Jesus: Ancient, Medieval, and Modern Imaginings of the Virgin Mary  
 Th.M. Graduate Seminar  
 Ethical Issues in Early Christianity  
 Introduction to Biblical Methods  
 Christian Origins: New Testament and the Beginnings of Christianity  
 (De)Constructing Women's Bodies in Antiquity (Directed Study)  
 Ethnicity and Race in Early Christianity (Directed Study)  
 Augustine's *Confessions* and Orthodoxy (Directed Study)  
 Theory and Method (Directed Study)  
 Locating the Holy: Travel, Liturgy, and Power in Early Christianity and Late Antiquity (Directed Study)  
 The Impact that Historical Trauma on the Body and the Land has in Modern Theo-Ethics: Historical Comparative Analysis and Modern Impact (Directed Study)

### **Professional Service**

July 2020-present	<b>Union Presbyterian Seminary</b> , Richmond, VA Director of Th.M. Program
July 2020- present	<b>Union Presbyterian Seminary</b> , Richmond, VA Chair, History, Theology, and Ethics Department
Nov 2017-present	<b>Society of Biblical Literature</b> Violence and Representations of Violence Session, Co-Chair
May 2016-present	<b>Society of Biblical Literature</b> Christian Apocrypha Session,

- Member
- Aug 2019-July 2020 **Union Presbyterian Seminary**, Richmond, VA  
Academic Programing Committee, Member
- July 2019-Mar 2020 **Union Presbyterian Seminary**, Richmond, VA  
Search Committee for Pastoral Care and Counseling position, Member
- May 2016-2018 **North American Patristics Society**  
Board Member, Member-at-Large  
Sub-group leader, developing Sexual Harassment Policy (on-going)
- Aug 2017-2018 **Union Presbyterian Seminary**, Richmond, VA  
Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees
- Aug 2017-2018 **Union Presbyterian Seminary**, Richmond, VA  
Committee on Student Life and Vocation/Admissions, Member
- June 2017-2018 **Union Presbyterian Seminary**, Richmond, VA  
Subcommittee to redesign MATS degree, Member
- June 2017-2018 **Union Presbyterian Seminary**, Richmond, VA  
Shalom Farm – Curriculum Committee, Member
- Apr 2015-May 2016 **Union Presbyterian Seminary**, Richmond, VA  
Budget Planning Faculty Working Group, Member
- Aug 2014-Aug 2017 **Union Presbyterian Seminary**, Richmond, VA  
Chair, History Department
- Aug 2014-Aug 2017 **Union Presbyterian Seminary**, Richmond, VA  
Academic Programing Committee, Member
- Jan 2014-Nov 2017 **Society of Biblical Literature**  
Violence and Representations of Violence Session,  
Steering Committee Member
- May 2014-Aug 2014 **Communities of Learning, Union Presbyterian**, Richmond, VA  
Faculty Coordinator (on-line learning and in person orientation)
- Aug 2013-May 2016 **Union Presbyterian Seminary**, Richmond, VA  
Eco Group, Faculty Advisor and Participant
- Aug 2013-Aug 2015 **Union Presbyterian Seminary**, Richmond, VA  
Community Life Committee, Member
- Aug 2013-2014 **Union Presbyterian Seminary**, Richmond, VA  
Howie Center Advisory Board
- Aug 2011-2012 **University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia  
Co-convener, Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins

Theme: “Memory and Forgetting”

- Jan 2009 **Duke University**, Durham, NC  
Co-organizer, Center for Late Ancient Studies Symposium on Christian and Muslim Relations in Late Antiquity
- Aug 2008-Aug 2010 **Duke University**, Durham, NC  
Convener, Religion and Theory Reading Group
- Aug 2008-Aug 2010 **Duke University**, Durham, NC  
Participant, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
- May 2008-Aug 2010 **Duke University**, Durham, NC  
Committee Member, Center for Late Ancient Studies
- Feb 2009 **Duke University**, Durham, NC  
Organizer, Center for Late Ancient Studies Symposium: “Constructing and Contesting Late Ancient Identities”
- May 2008-Aug 2009 **Duke University**, Durham, NC  
Religion Dept. Graduate Student Liason, Office of Graduate Student Affairs (GSA). Communicate available programming to Religion graduate students and student needs to GSA. Assist in programming events throughout academic year.
- Aug 2008-May 2009 **Duke University**, Durham, NC  
Head T.A. for Department of Religion. Coordinating educational opportunities for student teaching assistants and precepts.
- Aug 2005-Aug 2010 **Duke University**, Durham, NC  
Participant, Late Ancient Studies Reading Group
- Aug 2005- Aug 2008 **Duke University**, Durham, NC  
Participant. Religion and Theory Reading Group
- Jan 2003 **Yale Divinity School**, New Haven, CT  
Co-organizer. All-School Conference: “Theological Education for Leadership and Service: The Creative Challenge”
- Sept 2002-Aug 2003 **Yale Divinity School**, New Haven, CT  
Community Life Committee Coordinator. Acts as co-coordinator on CLC, assists in allocating funding to student groups, organizes the Christmas Party, Spring Fling, All School Conference, Fatted Cafés, and Coffee Hour.
- Sept 2001-May 2002 **Yale Divinity School**, New Haven, CT  
Student Coordinator, Biblical Studies Group.

### **Community Involvement and Presentations**

- Feb. 2020 **First Presbyterian Church**, Richmond, VA  
“Discipleship in the Early Church” (Lenten series)



- Oct. 2019      **St. James Presbyterian Church**, Greensboro, NC  
With Dr. Rodney Sadler, “The Invention of Race: Race, Ethnicity, Scripture, and the Christian Tradition”
- Sept. 2019      **Union Presbyterian Seminary**, Richmond, VA  
“Judaism and Christianity on the Arabian Peninsula on the Eve of Islam”  
(Seminary for a Day workshop)
- Dec. 2017      **Union Presbyterian Seminary**, Richmond, VA  
“Wealth and Poverty among Ascetics and Monastics of the Early Church”  
(Korean Lay Leadership lecture)
- Oct. 2017      **Union Alumni Reunion**, Montreat, NC  
“Race in Scripture and Christianity” co-lead talk with Rodney Sadler
- Sept. 2017      **Union Presbyterian Seminary**, Richmond, VA  
“Who Is Our Neighbor? Wisdom from the Desert Mothers and Fathers”  
(Seminary for a Day workshop)
- May 2017      **Union Presbyterian Seminary**, Richmond, VA  
Introduction for Sprunt lecturer, Dana L. Robert
- Mar.-Apr. 2017      **Second Presbyterian Church**, Richmond, VA  
“Lenten Wisdom from the Desert Father and Mothers”
- Dec. 2016      **Union Presbyterian Seminary**, Richmond, VA  
“Wealth and Poverty among Ascetics and Monastics of the Early Church”  
(Korean Lay Leadership lecture)
- Oct. 2016      **Bethesda Presbyterian Church**, Bethesda, MD  
“Slow Nourishment in a Fast Food World: What the Desert Mothers and Fathers Would Say to a World of Plenty”
- Aug. 2016      **Islamic Center of Virginia**  
Interfaith Eid
- Oct 2015      **New Hope Presbytery Retreat for Pastors and Educators**, Salter Path, NC  
“Thinking with the Desert Fathers and Mothers: What Early Monasticism Has to Say to a Changing World”
- June 2015      **United Methodist Alum Luncheon**, Roanoke, VA  
“‘Our life and our death is with our neighbor’: Desert wisdom on caring for ourselves and the Other”
- May 2015      **Union Presbyterian Seminary**, Richmond, VA  
Introduction for Sprunt lecturer, Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza
- Apr 2015-Apr 2016      **St. Paul’s Episcopal Church**, Richmond, VA  
Spiritual Formation Planning Team

- Feb 2014-May 2016 **Richmonders Involved to Strengthen our Communities (RISC)**  
Community Organizer
- March 2014 **Fundraiser for Neighborhood Resource Center of Fulton**  
Volunteer
- Feb 2014 **St. James Episcopal Church**, Richmond, VA  
CARITAS Volunteer
- Oct 2013 **Long Walk to Freedom March**, Richmond, VA  
Participant
- Apr 2013 **Cathedral Church of the Nativity (Episcopal)**, Bethlehem, PA  
Adult Education Forum.  
“Introducing Eastern Christianities.”
- June 2012-July 2013 **Bethlehem Food Co-Op** start-up, Member.
- Aug 2011 **Cathedral Church of the Nativity (Episcopal)**, Bethlehem, PA  
Co-organizer and Group Leader. Summer Women’s Program.  
“The Role of the Church in Food Issues: Sourcing, Hunger, and  
Incarnational Theology.”

### **Honors and Grants**

- Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fellowship, 2010-2012.  
Julian Price Graduate Fellowship in Humanities/History, 2009-2010.  
Summer Research Fellowship, Duke University, Summer 2009.  
Predissertation and Dissertation Research Travel Award, Duke University, 2007.  
Duke University Graduate School Fellowship, 2005-2009.  
Partial tuition scholarship, Yale Divinity School, 2001-2004.  
*Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD)*, 2001.  
Partial tuition scholarship, Illinois Wesleyan University, 1997-2001.  
National Merit scholarship, 1997-2001.

### **Professional Membership**

- North American Patristics Society  
Society of Biblical Literature  
International Association of Coptic Studies  
American Society of Church History  
North American Society for the Study of Christian Apocryphal Literature  
Mizan Project

### **Language Proficiencies**

- Ancient languages: Coptic, Syriac, Latin, Ancient Greek, Classical Arabic, Middle Egyptian,  
Biblical Hebrew  
Modern languages: Spanish (reading), German (reading), French (reading), Arabic (basic  
spoken)