

## Ellen Muehlberger

Near Eastern Studies and History  
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### Education

Ph.D., Religious Studies, Indiana University-Bloomington	2008
M.A., Religious Studies, Indiana University-Bloomington	2001
B.A., Comparative Religion and Biomedical Sciences, Western Michigan University	1995

### Publications

#### Book

*Angels in Late Ancient Christianity*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Reviews: *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2013.10.16; *Choice* 51.2 (October 2013); *H-Soz-u-Kult* 24.03.2014; *Journal of Theological Studies* 65.1 (2014): 312-14; *Journal of Late Antiquity* 7.1 (2014): 189-92; *Marginalia Review of Books*, April 28, 2015; *American Historical Review* 120.5 (2015): 1952-53; *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 24.1 (2016): 130-32; *Horizons* 43.1 (2016): 213-14.

#### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

“The Morphing Portrait of a Church Father: Evidence from the *de morte* (PG 4886) attributed to John Chrysostom.” *Eirene: Studia Graeca et Latina* 52 (2016): 407-19.

“Simeon and Other Women in Theodoret’s *Religious History*: Gender in the Representation of Late Ancient Christian Asceticism.” *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 23.4 (2015): 583-606.

“The Legend of Arius’s Death: Imagination, Space, and Filth in Late Ancient Historiography.” *Past & Present: A Journal of Historical Studies* 277 (2015): 3-29.

“Salvage: Macrina and the Christian Project of Cultural Reclamation.” *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture* 81 (2012): 273-97.

“Preserving the Divine: αὐτο- Prefixed Generative Terms and the *Untitled Treatise* in the Bruce Codex.” *Vigiliae Christianae* 65 (2011): 311-28.

“Ambivalence about the Angelic Life: The Promise and Perils of an Early Christian Discourse of Asceticism.” *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 16 (2008): 447-78.

“The Representation of Theatricality in Philo’s *Embassy to Gaius*.” *Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic, and Roman Periods* 39 (2008): 46-67.

### **Contributions to Edited Volumes**

“Angel.” *Late Ancient Knowing: Explorations in Intellectual History*, ed. Catherine M. Chin and Moulie Vidas (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2015), 117-33.

“Negotiations with Death: Ephrem’s Control of Death in Dialogue.” *Shifting Frontiers VIII: Shifting Cultural Frontiers in Late Antiquity*, ed. David Brakke, Deborah Deliyannis, and Ed Watts (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2012), 23-34.

### **Forthcoming**

“The Ascetic Leader in Gregory of Nyssa’s *Life of Moses*.” *The Christian Moses: From Philo to the Qur’an*, ed. Philip Rousseau and Janet Timbie (Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, forthcoming).

“Affecting Rhetoric: The Adoption of Ethopoeia in Evagrius of Pontus’s Ascetic Program.” *School and Monastery: Rethinking Early Monastic Education*, ed. Lillian Larsen and Samuel Rubenson (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming).

*Practice*, an edited volume of translations of late ancient texts in *The Cambridge Edition of Early Christian Writings* series. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, in press, publication date: November 2017)

“Theological Anthropology and Medicine: Questions and Directions for Research.” *Studia Patristica* (forthcoming).

### **Under Contract**

*The Moment of Reckoning: Imagined Death and Its Consequences in Late Antiquity*. New York: Oxford University Press, slated for delivery in 2018.

*Reading*, an edited volume of translations of late ancient texts in *The Cambridge Edition of Early Christian Writings* series. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, slated for delivery in 2019.

### **Invited Talks**

“Perpetual Adjustment: Untangling Tradition, Cult, and the *Passio Perpetuae et Felicitatis*.” Medieval Studies Institute Alumni Lecture. Indiana University. Bloomington, IN. September 28, 2017.

“Orienting Oneself to Death: Preaching and the Role of Rhetoric in Late Ancient Christianity.” Center for Late Ancient Studies Spring Symposium. Duke University. Durham, NC. April 1, 2016.

“Early Christian Preaching about the Moment of Death.” Department of Religion, Bowdoin College. New Brunswick, ME. April 2, 2015.

“Learning to Die: Ancient Pedagogy and Preaching about the Hour of Death.” Vandalia: A Symposium on Late Ancient Studies. Ohio State University. Columbus, OH. October 24, 2014.

“Preparatory Remarks: The *Protrepticus* and *Paraeneticus* in Evagrius’s Educational Program.” Early Monasticism and Classical *Paideia*. Lund University, Sweden. October 9-12, 2013.

“Gregory of Nyssa’s *Life of Moses* and Evagrian Ascetic Traditions.” The Christian Moses: From Philo to the Qur’an. Catholic University of America. Washington, D.C. May 31-June 3, 2012.

“Religious Training and Visualization: Mapping the Power of the Early Christian Priest.” Department of Comparative Religion, Western Michigan University. Kalamazoo, MI. March 20, 2012.

“The Ignoble Death of Heretics and the Ingressive Memory of Place in Christian Historiography.” Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI. October 6, 2011.

“Powerful Helpers: Antony’s Monastic Tradition and Its Interpretation in Late Antiquity.” Late Antiquity and Its Renaissance Legacies, Center for the Study of Early Christianity, Catholic University of America. Washington, D.C. February 7, 2011.

“Training the Religious Imagination: Angels in Late Ancient Christian Ritual.” Department of Religious Studies, Michigan State University. East Lansing, MI. April 16, 2010.

### **Presentations**

“Extraordinary Conceptions: Insemination and Theories of Reproduction in Narsai’s Thought.” Narsai Workshop, Neil A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship. Brigham Young University. June 22-23, 2017.

“Cumulative Assignment Design and Students’ Intellectual Development.” The Craft of Teaching Workshop, University of Chicago Divinity School. January 23, 2017.

“Training for Death: Rhetorical Formation and the Cast of Early Christian Thanatology.” Early Christian Studies Workshop, University of Chicago Divinity School. January 23, 2017.

“Reading and Rhetoric: A Reinterpretation of *The Letter to Marcellinus*.” North American Patristics Society. Chicago, IL. May 26-28, 2016.

“The Influence of Rhetorical Training on Late Ancient Christian Preaching about Death.” Interdepartmental Program in Greek and Roman History. University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI. March 23, 2016.

“Why Death?” Undergraduate Society for the Study of Religion. Louisiana State University. Baton Rouge, LA. January 26, 2016.

“The Third Person: Finding the Self in Ancient Regulation.” Social History of Formative Christianity and Judaism Section. Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA. November 21-24, 2015.

“Theological Anthropology and Medicine,” part of arranged panel titled “Christianity, Health, Medicine, and Disability: State of the Art (or State of the Question).” International Conference on Patristic Studies. Oxford, England. August 10-14, 2015.

“On Authors, Fathers, and Holy Men.” Roundtable on Late Antiquity and the New Humanities. International Congress on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, MI. May 14-17, 2015.

“Tears without Sadness: Methods and Passions in Evagrian Practice.” American Society of Church History Winter Meeting. New York, NY. January 2-5, 2015.

“Learning to Die: Jacob of Serug on the Experience of Death.” North American Patristics Society. Chicago, IL. May 22-24, 2014.

“Remaining: The Dead beyond Their Death.” Co-presentation with Mira Balberg of Northwestern University. Models of Piety Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD. November 22, 2013.

“Going Public: Legends of the Death of Arius.” Social History of Formative Christianity and Judaism Section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. November 17-20, 2012.

“Simeon and Other Women in Theodoret’s *Religious History*.” North American Patristics Society. Chicago, IL. May 24-26, 2012.

“Tracing the Christian Community in the Fourth Century: Changing Perspectives on ‘Public’ and ‘Private’.” American Society of Church History Winter Meeting. Chicago, IL. January 6, 2012.

“Evagrian Death Meditation and Amphilochius’s Homily on Lazarus.” Esotericism and Mysticism Section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA. November 19-22, 2011.

“Knowing Angels.” Colloquium on Late Ancient Knowing: A New Doxography. University of California-Davis. Davis, CA. November 17-18, 2011.

“Restoring Philosophy: Gregory of Nyssa’s *Treatise on the Soul and the Resurrection* as Cultural Salvage.” American Society of Church History Spring Meeting. Grand Rapids, MI. April 7-10, 2011.

“Saving Socrates: Macrina and the Christian Project of Cultural Reclamation.” Greater Michigan Ancient Christianity Society, Kalamazoo College. Kalamazoo, MI. February 4, 2011.

“Macrina and Socrates: Gregory of Nyssa’s New Martyrs of the Majority.” Violence and Representations of Violence among Jews and Christians Section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA. November 2010.

“The Changing Role of Representation in Late Ancient Christian Ritual.” Invention, Rewriting, and Usurpation: Discursive Fights over Religious Traditions in Antiquity. Ebeltoft, Denmark. May 31-June 4, 2010.

“Gregory of Nyssa’s *Life of Moses* and Its Ascetic Context.” North American Patristics Society. Chicago, IL. May 2010.

“Garnering a Companion: The *Letter on the Cultivation of Grace* and Angelic Assistants in Antony’s Community.” Midwest Consortium on Ancient Religions; Magic and Religion in Greco-Roman Egypt. Ann Arbor, MI. April 9-10, 2010.

“Faces of Death: Death as a Character in Late Ancient West Asian Literature.” Religious World of Late Antiquity Section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA. November 2009.

“Shenoute’s Estimation of the Experience of Death in *de iudicio*.” North American Patristics Society. Chicago, IL. May 2009.

“Negotiations with Death: Ephrem’s Control of Death in Dialogue.” Shifting Frontiers in Late Antiquity VIII. Bloomington, IN. April 2009.

“The Influence of Numenius: The ‘Self-Originate’ in Sethian Literature and the Gospel of Judas.” Nag Hammadi and Gnosticism Section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. Boston, MA. November 2008.

“Seeing the Light: A Re-Evaluation of the Context of *Life of Antony* 10.” North American Patristics Society. Chicago, IL. May 2008.

“Multiple Voices in Iamblichus’s *de mysteriis*.” Indiana University Religious Studies Graduate Conference. Bloomington, IN. March 2007.

“The Limits of Critique: Augustine’s Concepts of Angelic Nature.” Jews, Christians, and Pagans in Antiquity—Critique and Apologetics, Ph.D. Seminar. Sponsored by Aarhus University. Aarhus, Denmark. January 2007.

“Origen and Jerome on Accusations of Jewish Angel Worship.” Early Jewish-Christian Relations Program Unit, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. Washington, DC. November 2006.

“Imagining Angels at Ritual: John Chrysostom and Narsai of Edessa on the Power of the Priest.” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. June 2006.

“How to Avoid Gossip: Angelic Appearances and Heresy in the Ascetic Literature of Egypt.” Religion in Roman Egypt Consultation, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. November 2005.

“A New Source of Scripture in John Chrysostom’s Homilies on Matthew.” History of Interpretation Section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. November 2005.

“The Angelic Life Revisited.” Ancient Studies Colloquium. Bloomington, IN. November 2005.

“Ambiguity about ‘The Angelic Life’: Evidence from Shenoute’s *Fourth Canon*.” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. June 2005.

“How Do Angels Speak? Diadochus of Photice on the Voice of the Angels.” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. May 2004.

“Basil’s Use of Biblical *Exempla*: Models for Lay and Monastic Fasting.” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. May 2002.

### **Comments and Responses**

Book panelist on Todd S. Berzon’s *Classifying Christians: Ethnography, Heresiology, and the Limits of Knowledge in Late Antiquity*. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Boston, MA. November 18-21, 2017.

Panelist for “Emerging Themes and Methods of Humanities Research.” American Council of Learned Societies Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD. May 12, 2017.

Respondent for “Unreadable Scriptures in Late Antique Judaism(s).” Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies Symposium. University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI. March 28, 2016.

Respondent for “Jews and the Roman Empire: Beyond the Resistance/Accommodation Paradigm.” Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies. University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI. February 9, 2015.

Book panelist on Elizabeth DePalma Digeser’s *A Threat to Public Piety: Christians, Platonists, and the Great Persecution*. North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. May 2013.

“Tracing the Christian Community in the Fourth Century: Changing Perspectives on ‘Public’ and ‘Private’.” Response to Xueying Wang. American Society of Church History Winter Meeting. Chicago, IL. January 6, 2012.

Respondent for Eleanor Leach, “Rhetorical *Inventio* and the Expectations of Roman Continuous Narrative Painting.” Art and Religions of Antiquity Program Unit, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA. November 2009.

### **Book Reviews, Notes, Encyclopedia Entries, and New Media Work**

*Group Identity and Religious Individuality in Late Antiquity*, ed. Éric Rebillard and Jörg Rüpke, for *Catholic Historical Review* 102 (2016): 375-76.

“On Authors, Fathers, and Holy Men.” Forum: Late Antiquity and the New Humanities. *Marginalia Review of Books*. September 20, 2015.

“Accretion.” Past & Present Blog. May 8, 2015.

“Angels” and “Arianism.” Entries in the *Routledge Dictionary of Ancient Mediterranean Religions*. Ed. Eric Orlin, Lisbeth Fried, Jennifer Knust, and Michael Satlow (Routledge, 2015).

*Greek Models of Mind and Self* by A. A. Long, for *Bryn Mawr Classical Review Online* (2015.07.25)

*Coming Out Christian in the Roman World: How the Followers of Jesus Made a Place in Caesar's Empire* by Douglas Boin, for *Marginalia Review of Books*, March 31, 2015.  
Account curator, @WeTheHumanities, April 7-14, 2014.

*Reconstructing the Theology of Evagrius Ponticus: Beyond Heresy* by Augustine Casiday, for *Bryn Mawr Classical Review Online* (2014.04.38).

"Angels in Late Ancient Christianity," *Oxford Scholarship Online News*, July 15, 2013,  
<http://www.oxfordscholarship.com/newsitem/184/angels-in-late-ancient-christianity>

*Apophysis and Pseudonymity in Dionysius the Areopagite: "No Longer I"* by Charles M. Stang, for *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 21 (2013): 144-45.

*Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars: Critical Explorations in the History of Religions* by Bruce Lincoln, for *Bryn Mawr Classical Review Online* (2012.11.38).

Note, with Jacob Latham. "Trends in Art and Religions in Antiquity at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting." *Henoch: Studies in Judaism and Christianity from Second Temple to Late Antiquity* 34 (2012): 188-89.

*Symbol and Icon: Dionysius the Areopagite and the Iconoclastic Crisis* by Filip Ivanović, for *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 20 (2012): 168-72.

*Mind, Text, and Commentary: Noetic Exegesis in Origen of Alexandria, Didymus the Blind, and Evagrius Ponticus* by Blossom Stefaniw, for *Bryn Mawr Classical Review Online* (2011.05.56).

*Baptism in the Early Church: History, Theology, and Liturgy in the First Five Centuries* by Everett Ferguson, for *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 130 (2010): 283-85.

*Christianity, Empire, and the Making of Religion in Late Antiquity* by Jeremy M. Schott, for *Bible and Critical Theory* 5 (2009): 48.1-4.

*Pseudo-Dionysius as Polemicist: The Development and Purpose of the Angelic Hierarchy in Sixth Century Syria* by Rosemary A. Arthur, for *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 17 (2009): 151-52.

*Il battesimo gnostico: Dottrine, simboli e riti iniziatici nello gnosticismo* by Augusto Cosentino, for *Bryn Mawr Classical Review Online* (2008.6.15).

*John Cassian and the Reading of Egyptian Monastic Culture* by Steven D. Driver, booknote for *Religious Studies Review* 32 (April 2006): 126.

*Tobit and Judith* by Benedict Otzen, for *Journal of Semitic Studies* 50 (2005): 386-88.

*The Ascension of Authorship: Attribution and Canon Formation in Jewish, Hellenistic, and Christian Traditions* by Jed Wyrick, for *Bryn Mawr Classical Review Online* (2005.05.54).

*Playing a Jewish Game: Gentile Christian Judaizing in the First and Second Centuries C.E.* by Michele Murray, for *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 13 (2005): 123-24.

### **Employment**

Associate Professor Departments of Near Eastern Studies and History, University of Michigan	May 2015-present
Affiliated Faculty (dry appointment) Department of Classical Studies and the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan	October 2015-present
Assistant Professor Departments of Near Eastern Studies and History, University of Michigan	July 2009-May 2015
Part-time Assistant Professor Department of Religious Studies, DePauw University	August 2008-May 2009
Editorial Assistant, <i>Journal of Early Christian Studies</i>	July 2005-May 2008
Instructor, Biblical Hebrew Borns Jewish Studies Program, Indiana University-Bloomington	August 2003-May 2008
Associate Instructor Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University-Bloomington	August 2000-May 2003

### **Service to the University of Michigan**

Leaves/Fellowships: Winter 2012, Fall 2014-Winter 2015, Fall 2016-Winter 2017

#### *To the Near Eastern Studies Department*

Director of Graduate Studies, 2015-2016, 2017-2018  
Curriculum Committee, 2009-2010, 2012-2014  
Graduate Committee, 2010-2011  
Library Committee, 2011 (Fall)

#### *To the History Department*

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee, 2017-2018  
Collegiate Post-Doc Selection Committee, 2017-2018  
Augmented Executive Committee, 2015-2016  
Development Liason, 2013-2014  
Undergraduate Committee, 2011 (Fall)  
Fellowship Committee, 2010-2011

#### *To other units*

Interdepartmental Program in Greek and Roman History Executive Committee, 2017-2018  
Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies FLAS Evaluation Committee, 2011



Individual Concentration Program Advisor, 2009-2010  
Classical Studies External Review participant, November 2009

*To the University as a whole*

Faculty Senate Assembly (2011-2014)

2013 Vandalia: A Symposium on Late Ancient Studies (September 2013)

Organized, with Paolo Squatriti, the annual Vandalia conference for graduate students from Indiana University, Ohio State University, and the University of Michigan, and raised \$3042 from university units to support it

Faculty Marshall, Honors Convocation (2013)

Faculty Marshall, Graduate Exercises (2013)

Development Advisory Committee (2012-2013)

Sweetland Center for Writing's "Turning the Tables" Faculty Writing Event (2012)

Consultant to curator of Special Collections Library, Shenoute digitization project (April 2011)

Worked with Pablo Alvarez to campaign to have Shenoute fragments in Michigan's collection digitized and helped him as he created a finding aid

CRLT Teaching Academy Mentor Group (Fall 2011)

Rackham-CRLT Preparing Future Faculty Series (May 2011)

Faculty Marshall, Spring Commencement (2010, 2011)

2011 Michigan Lecture in Judaism and Christianity in the Roman World (October 2011)

Organized visit for Daniel Boyarin and raised \$4570 from university units and the Michigan Center for Early Christian Studies to support it

2010 Michigan Lecture in Judaism and Christianity in the Roman World (March 2010)

Organized visit for Elizabeth A. Clark and raised \$3600 from university units to support it; solicited the Michigan Center for Early Christian Studies to sponsor a reception

UM Chapter Advisor, National Society of Collegiate Scholars (Nov 2010-May 2013)

Participant, Religion and the Secular Faculty Seminar (2009-2010)

### **Service to the Profession**

Manuscript review for Ashgate, Gorgias Press, Harvard University Press, Routledge, and University of California Press (x2); article review for *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture*, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *Harvard Theological Review*, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, *Journal of Religion, Media, and Digital Culture*, *Journal of Early Christian Studies*, and *Studies in Late Antiquity*

Book reviews for *Bible and Critical Theory*, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (x6), *Catholic Historical Review*, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, *Journal of Early Christian Studies* (x4), *Journal of Semitic Studies*, and *Marginalia Review of Books*.

Member, Steering Committee, American Academy of Religion Seminar on Origen, Human Dignity and Human Freedom (2017-)

Member, Editorial Board, *Studies in Late Antiquity* (2016-)

Contributing Editor, *Marginalia Review of Books* (2015-2016)

Member, Grants and Awards Committee, North American Patristics Society (2016)

Member, North American Patristics Society Board of Directors (2013-2016)

Member, Advisory Board, *Ancient Jew Review* (2015-)

Member, Program Committee for Annual Meeting, American Society of Church History (2014)

Member, Series Advisory Board, *Early Christianity in the Context of Antiquity* (2013-)

Member, Editorial Board, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (2013-)

Member, Western Michigan University Department of Comparative Religion Alumni Advisory Board (2013-)

Member, Editorial Team, *Cambridge Editions of Early Christian Writings* (2011-)

Art and Religions in Antiquity Program Unit, Society of Biblical Literature (chair 2009-2012, member 2012-2013)

### **Honors, Grants, and Fellowships**

Associate Professor Support Fund Grant University of Michigan	2017-2019
ADVANCE Faculty Summer Writing Grant	2017
National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship	2016-2017
Class of 1923 Memorial Teaching Award University of Michigan	2015
Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowship American Council of Learned Societies	2014-2015
Faculty Fellowship Enhancement Award Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan	2013
Ludolph Junior Faculty Development Award University of Michigan	2010, 2013, 2014
Borns Jewish Studies Program Conference Funding Indiana University-Bloomington	2006
College of Arts and Sciences Travel Grant	2002, 2005

Indiana University-Bloomington

Chancellor's Fellowship, Indiana University-Bloomington

1999-2004

Presidential Scholar in Comparative Religion  
Western Michigan University

1995

Medallion Scholar, Western Michigan University

1991-1995

### **Research Languages**

Ancient: Armenian (novice), Coptic, Greek, Hebrew, Latin, Syriac  
Modern: French, German, Italian

### **Professional Associations**

American Academy of Religion  
Association Internationale d'Études Patristiques/International Association of Patristic Studies  
International Association for Coptic Studies  
North American Patristics Society  
Society of Biblical Literature