Ellen Muehlberger

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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**

“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.

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

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

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

“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.

“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.

**Forthcoming**

“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 (Winter 2015): *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, delivered to press and slated for publication in 2016).

**Under Contract**

*The Moment of Reckoning: Imagined Death and Its Consequences in Late Antiquity.* New York: Oxford University Press, slated for delivery in May 2017.

*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 2018.

# Invited Talks

“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.

**Conference Presentations**

“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 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.

**Panel Service and Responses**

Respondent for “Jews and the Roman Empire: Beyond the Resistance/Accommodation Paradigm.” Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Michigan. 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**

“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

*Apophasis 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 May 2015-present

Departments of Near Eastern Studies and History, University of Michigan

Assistant Professor July 2009-May 2015

Departments of Near Eastern Studies and History, University of Michigan

Part-time Assistant Professor August 2008-May 2009

Department of Religious Studies, DePauw University

Editorial Assistant, *Journal of Early Christian Studies* July 2005-May 2008

#### Instructor, Biblical Hebrew August 2003-May 2008

## Borns Jewish Studies Program, Indiana University-Bloomington

Associate Instructor August 2000-May 2003

Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University-Bloomington

**Service to the Profession**

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

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

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

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

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

Member, North American Patristics Society Board of Directors (2013-2015)

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

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

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

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

Panel presider at Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting (2010, 2011) and North American Patristics Society annual meeting (2006, 2009, 2010, 2012)

**Honors and Fellowships**

Class of 1923 Memorial Teaching Award 2015

University of Michigan

Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowship 2014-2015

American Council of Learned Societies

Faculty Fellowship Enhancement Award 2013

Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan

Ludolph Junior Faculty Development Award 2010, 2013, 2014

University of Michigan

Borns Jewish Studies Program Conference Funding 2006

Indiana University-Bloomington

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 1995

Western Michigan University

Medallion Scholar, Western Michigan University 1991-1995

**Research Languages**

Ancient: Armenian (novice), Coptic, Greek, Hebrew, Latin, Syriac

Modern: French, German, Italian

**Professional Associations**

American Society for Church History

Association Internationale d’Études Patristiques/International Association of Patristic Studies

International Association for Coptic Studies

North American Patristics Society

Society of Biblical Literature