

THOMAS J. WHITLEY
CURRICULUM VITAE

Department of Religion
Box 3061520
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306

tjw@thomaswhitley.com
704.604.1986

EDUCATION

- 2016 Ph.D., Religions of Western Antiquity
Florida State University
Dissertation: "The Greatest Blasphemy: Sex, Souls, and the Carpocratian Heresy"
Dissertation Advisor: Nicole Kelley
- 2010 M.A., Religion
Gardner-Webb University
- 2010 M.Div., M. Christopher White School of Divinity
Gardner-Webb University
- 2006 B.A., Religious Studies, *Cum Laude*
University of North Carolina at Charlotte

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

"Poison in the *Panarion*: Beasts, Heretics, and Sexual Deviants." *Vigiliae Christianae*. (Forthcoming)

Book Chapters

"Killing The Scholar: Critical Theory, Relevance, and Objects of Study." In *Theory in a Time of Excess: The Case of the Academic Study of Religion*, ed. Aaron Hughes. Sheffield: Equinox, 2016. (Forthcoming)

"Give Me Liberty or Give Me Pizza (Or, How the Public Transcript Fabricates Difference)." In *Fabricating Difference*, ed. Steven Ramey. Sheffield: Equinox, 2016. (Forthcoming)

Encyclopedia Articles

"James, Brother of Jesus - Christianity." In *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, eds. Christine Helmer et al. Berlin/Boston: de Gruyter, 2016. (Forthcoming)

Reviews

Review of Charles W. Hedrick, *Unlocking the Secrets of the Gospel According to Thomas: A Radical Faith for a New Age*, and Riemer Roukema, *Jesus, Gnosis and Dogma. Perspectives in Religious Studies* 41, no. 1 (Spring 2014): 86-89.

Review of Emmanuel O. Tukasi, *Determinism and Petitionary Prayer in John and the Dead Sea Scrolls: An Ideological Reading of John and the Community Rule (1QS)*. *Dead Sea Discoveries* 20 (2013): 172-174.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Panels Organized

- 2016 “Demystifying the Teaching Philosophy: A Workshop.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 19-22.
- 2016 “Translation and Contexts in the History of Christianity.” American Academy of Religion SE Regional Meeting. March 4-6.
- 2016 “Translating Missions and Identity in the History of Christianity.” American Academy of Religion SE Regional Meeting. March 4-6.
- 2016 “Conflict and Consensus: Christianity, Civil Rights, and Religious Freedom in the United States.” American Academy of Religion. March 4-6. Co-organized with Mike Graziano and Brad Stoddard.
- 2015 “Annual Meeting Orientation.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 20-24.
- 2015 “History of Christianity: Bourdieu and Boundaries.” American Academy of Religion SE Regional Meeting. March 6-8.
- 2015 “Disabilities and the History of Christianity.” American Academy of Religion SE Regional Meeting. March 6-8.
- 2014 “Strategies for the Academic Study of Religion.” Florida State University Graduate Student Symposium. February 22-24.
- 2014 “Annual Meeting Orientation.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 22-25.

Papers Presented

- 2016 “Constructing ‘Christianity’ vis-a-vis the ‘Greco-Roman World’: The Case of Carpocrates.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 19-22.
- 2016 “Second Century Swingers? Toward a Reconstruction of Carpocratianism’s Communalism of Wives.” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, May 26-28.
- 2015 “Carpocratianism, Authority, and the Communism of Wives.” Florida State University Graduate Student Symposium, February 20-22.
- 2014 “Priorities, Preparation, and Process: Time Management for the Rest of Us.” AAR Student Lounge Roundtable, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 24.
- 2014 “‘Of the Fire of Angels and the Blood of Women’: Intermarriage and the Pseudo-Clementine Reception of the Watchers Myth.” American Academy of Religion SE Regional Meeting, March 7-9.
- 2013 “Docetism, Gnosis, and Laughter: The Rhetorical Reception of the Passion Narrative at Nag Hammadi.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 22-26.

- 2013 “Ancient Antidotes: Pollution, Sexual Slander, and The Body in Epiphanius’ *Panarion*.” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting. May 23-25.
- 2013 “The Politics of Defamation: Disease and Sexual Invective in Epiphanius’ *Medicine Chest Against Heresies*.” American Academy of Religion SE Regional Meeting. March 15-17.
- 2013 “Heresy on the Margins: Islam as a Christian Heresy in John of Damascus’ *De Haeresibus*.” Florida State University Graduate Student Symposium. February 22-24.
- 2012 “The Savior Laughed: The Rhetorical Use of Jesus’ Laughter in Early Christian Gnostic Texts.” American Academy of Religion SE Regional Meeting. March 2-4.
- 2012 "Identity Formation Through Laughter: The Laughter of Jesus in the Coptic *Apocalypse of Peter* and the *Second Treatise of the Great Seth*." Florida State University Graduate Student Symposium. February 17-19.
- 2011 “The Dawn of Heaven: The Benedictus, John the Baptist, and Messianic Allusions.” National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion Annual Meeting. May 22-25.
- 2010 “From Qumran to Philo: Precedence for Paul’s Use of ‘Israel.’” Society of Biblical Literature SE Regional Meeting. March 5-7.
- 2009 “Second Temple Jewish Apocalypticism: Literature, Sociology, and Theology.” Life of the Scholar Multidisciplinary Conference. February 28.

Respondent

- 2015 “Killing the Scholar: Critical Theory, Relevance, and Objects of Study” in response to Merinda Simmons, “The High Stakes of Identifying (with) One’s Object of Study.” North American Association for the Study of Religion Annual Meeting, November 20-22.

Panels Moderated

- 2015 “Voices of Resistance in Jewish Literature.” Florida State University Graduate Student Symposium. February 20-22.
- 2015 “Gender, Power, and Resistance at Qumran.” Florida State University Graduate Student Symposium. February 20-22.
- 2013 “History of Christianity: Formation of Integral Values.” American Academy of Religion SE Regional Meeting. March 15-17.
- 2013 “Identity Politics of Christianity in Antiquity.” Florida State University Graduate Student Symposium. February 22-24.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2011-2016 Graduate Teaching Assistant Fellowship
Florida State University

- 2016 Graduate Student Research and Creativity Award
Florida State University
- 2016 Conference Travel Grant
Department of Religion, Florida State University
- 2015 Conference Travel Grant
Department of Religion, Florida State University
- 2014 Conference Travel Grants (2)
Department of Religion, Florida State University
- 2014 Conference Presentation Support Grant
Congress of Graduate Students, Florida State University
- 2013 Conference Travel Grants (2)
Department of Religion, Florida State University
- 2013 Conference Presentation Support Grants (2)
Congress of Graduate Students, Florida State University
- 2012 Conference Travel Grant
Department of Religion, Florida State University
- 2012 Conference Presentation Support Grant
Congress of Graduate Students, Florida State University
- 2010 Daniel E. Goodman *Interpretation* Award
M. Christopher White School of Divinity, Gardner-Webb University
- 2010 Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina Scholar
- 2009 Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina Scholar
- 2009 Daniel E. Goodman Academic Research Award
M. Christopher White School of Divinity, Gardner-Webb University

CAMPUS TALKS

- 2015 “Faith and Sexuality,” panelist. University Health Services, Florida State University.
November 5.
- 2013 “Thinking About Time Management in Graduate School.” Undergraduate Religion
Symposium, Florida State University. April 16.
- 2013 “Sexual Slander in Early Christianity.” Religion Club, Florida State University.
January 29.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Florida State University

Sex and Sexuality in Early Christianity (Instructor of Record: Spring 2016)

Introduction to World Religions (Instructor of Record: Fall 2015)

Introduction to World Religions (Teaching Assistant: Summer 2015)

Introduction to the New Testament (Instructor of Record: Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Summer 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2015)

Introduction to the New Testament (Teaching Assistant: Fall 2011, Spring 2012)

Gardner-Webb University

Introduction to the Old Testament (Adjunct: Fall 2010)

SERVICE TO FIELD

Contributing Editor and *MRBlog* Director, *Marginalia Review of Books* (2015-present)
Chair, History of Christianity Section, American Academy of Religion - Southeast (2015-present;
Co-Chair 2014-2015)

Regional Representatives Coordinator, Student Advisory Board, Society of Biblical Literature (2015-present)

Contributor, *History of Christianity* Blog, American Society of Church History (2014-2016)

Network Coordinator (On-Campus Student Representatives), Student Advisory Board, Society of Biblical Literature (2013-2015)

SERVICE TO DEPARTMENT

Florida State University

Department of Religion Graduate Committee - Recruitment Subcommittee (2015-2016)

Advisor, Association for Research on Religion and Culture [Religion Club] (2014-2016)

Department of Religion Undergraduate Studies Committee (2013-2016)

Director, Department of Religion Graduate Student Symposium (2013-2014)

Assistant Director, Department of Religion Graduate Student Symposium (2012-2013)

Graduate Student Advisory Committee (2012-2013)

SELECT NON-REFEREED ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

“Pleasing the Lord in Oregon.” *Marginalia Review of Books*. January 6, 2016. <http://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/mrblog-pleasing-the-lord-in-oregon/>.

“Why Rick Santorum Thinks a Muslim Ban is Constitutional and Why It Matters.” *Marginalia Review of Books*. December 17, 2015. <http://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/mrblog-why-rick-santorum-thinks-a-muslim-ban-is-constitutional-and-why-it-matters/>.

“When Prayer Is Not Enough.” *Marginalia Review of Books*. December 3, 2015. <http://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/mrblog-when-prayer-is-not-enough/>.

“Audrey DuBose and the Demand for Black Forgiveness.” *Marginalia Review of Books*. July 30, 2015. <http://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/mrblog-audrey-dubose-and-the-demand-for-black-forgiveness/>.

“On De-Reifying Traditional Boundaries: Christian vs. Greco-Roman.” *History of Christianity* (blog). American Society of Church History. July 13, 2015. <http://www.churchhistory.org/blogs/blog/on-de-reifying-traditional-boundaries-christian-vs-greco-roman/>.

“No, Religion is Not Disappearing.” *Marginalia Review of Books*. June 11, 2015. <http://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/mrblog-no-religion-is-not-disappearing/>.

“Early Christian Reincarnation.” *History of Christianity* (blog). American Society of Church History. June 9, 2015. <http://www.churchhistory.org/blogs/blog/early-christian-reincarnation/>.

“Playing the Prophet: Michael Eric Dyson, Cornel West, and the True Black Prophet.” *Marginalia Review of Books*. April 23, 2015. <http://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/mrblog-playing-the-prophet-michael-eric-dyson-cornel-west-and-the-true-black-prophet/>

“Idols or Artifacts? An Exercise in Self-Reflexivity When Pondering ISIS’s Destruction of Mosul’s Antiquities.” *Religious Studies News*. March 18, 2015. <http://rsn.aarweb.org/articles/idols-or-artifacts-exercise-self-reflexivity-when-pondering-isis’s-destruction-mosul’s>. Co-written with Sam Houston.

“Why How We Define Religion Matters.” *Marginalia Review of Books*. March 17, 2015. <http://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/mrblog-why-how-we-define-religion-matters/>

“Gender in Christianity: Immutable or Fluid?” *History of Christianity* (blog). American Society of Church History. March 11, 2015. <http://www.churchhistory.org/blogs/blog/gender-in-christianity-immutable-or-fluid/>.

“The Rhetoric of Similarity: Republicans, Complementarians, and ISIS.” *Marginalia Review of Books*. February 11, 2015. <http://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/rhetoric-similarity-republicans-complementarians-isis/>.

“Who is Carpocrates?” *Ancient Jew Review*. January 21, 2015. <http://www.ancientjewreview.com/articles/2015/1/21/who-is-carpocrates>.

“A Transgender Thecla?” *History of Christianity* (blog). American Society of Church History. November 10, 2014. <http://www.churchhistory.org/blogs/blog/a-transgender-thecla/>.

“The Second Century, Hobby Lobby, and the Invention of Christianity.” *History of Christianity* (blog). American Society of Church History. August 11, 2014. <http://www.churchhistory.org/blogs/blog/the-second-century-hobby-lobby-and-the-invention-of-christianity/>.

*For a comprehensive list of my online publications, see www.thomaswhitley.com/publications.

INVITED PUBLIC LECTURES

2015 “Papa Francesco: Less Radical Politician, More Subtle Rhetorician,” First Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, FL. October 21.

2015 “Baptism in Early Christianity,” First Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, FL. August 30.

- 2015 “A Fiery Adventure: Daniel’s Fiery Furnace in Context,” Dogwood Acres Retreat Center, Vernon, FL. January 24.
- 2015 “What About the Wise Men?” Faith Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, FL. January 7.
- 2014 “Was Jesus Married? An Evaluation of the Claims and Evidence,” Faith Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, FL. October 8.
- 2014 “The Parables,” Dogwood Acres Retreat Center, Vernon, FL. January 25.
- 2013 “Early Christian Identities,” Faith Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, FL. September 11.
- 2013 “Strange Elements of Early Christianity,” Faith Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, FL. January 23.

LANGUAGES

Greek (Classical, Koine)
 Latin
 Hebrew (Biblical)
 Aramaic (Biblical, Qumran)
 Syriac
 Coptic
 Arabic (Qur’anic - basic)
 German (Reading Knowledge)
 French (Reading Knowledge)

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Society of Biblical Literature
 American Academy of Religion
 North American Patristics Society
 North American Association for the Study of Religion

REFERENCES

Nicole Kelley
 Associate Professor of Religion
 Department of Religion
 Florida State University
 Dodd Hall M05
 Tallahassee, FL 32306
 850.212.8010
nkelley@fsu.edu

David Levenson
 Distinguished Teaching Professor
 Department of Religion
 Florida State University
 Dodd Hall M05
 Tallahassee, FL 32306
 850.212.5099
dlevenson@fsu.edu

Candida Moss
Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity
Department of Theology
University of Notre Dame
336 Malloy Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556
574.631.5079
candida.moss@nd.edu

John Kelsay
Professor of Religion
Department of Religion
Florida State University
Dodd Hall M05
Tallahassee, FL 32306
jkelsay@fsu.edu

Matthew Goff
Professor of Religion
Department of Religion
Florida State University
Dodd Hall M05
Tallahassee, FL 32306
mgoff@fsu.edu