

LAURA LOCKE ESTES

Assistant Professor of Religion | Pepperdine University

Seaver College | Religion and Philosophy Division
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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Pepperdine University, Seaver College Religion and Philosophy Division	2022 – present
Faculty Fellow, Pepperdine University, Seaver College Religion & Philosophy Division	2021 – 2022

EDUCATION

PhD, Saint Louis University Theological Studies: Christianity in Antiquity Dissertation: <i>Late Antique Christian Portrayals of Jews and Muslims</i> Supervisors: Jeffrey Wickes and James Adam Redfield	2022
MA, Abilene Christian University, Graduate School of Theology Ancient and Oriental Christianity	2016
BA, Freed-Hardeman University Majors: History and Biblical Languages, Minor: Political Science	2012

SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

2021	Brennan Summer Research Fellowship Award, Saint Louis University
2021	Dissertation Interim Report Prize, Dorushe Graduate Conference in Syriac Studies
2020 – 2021	Carl R. Holladay Fellowship, Christian Scholars Foundation (\$13,000 award)
2019 – 2020	Abraham J. Malherbe Fellowship, Christian Scholars Foundation (\$10,000 award)
2017 – 2021	Diversity Fellowship, Saint Louis University (4-year award)
2016 – 2017	Graduate Assistantship, Saint Louis University (5-year award, declined in favor of Diversity Fellowship after 1 year)
2016	Stone-Campbell Journal Promising Scholar Award
2015 – 2016	Everett Ferguson Endowed Scholarship, Abilene Christianity University
2015	Isaac Errett Award for Stone-Campbell Movement Studies

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

2015	“Signs of the Times: Islam and Millennial Expectations in the Barclay Mission.” <i>Stone-Campbell Journal</i> 18:2 (Fall 2015), 163–74.
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Translations

with Blake Hartung, Tracy Russell, Jeff Wickes, and Anna Williams, “Narsai’s *Memra on Pentecost*,” for *The Collected Poems of Narsai*, Catholic University of America Press, forthcoming.

Reviews

“Donald Fairbairn, *The Global Church—The First Eight Centuries: From Pentecost through the Rise of Islam*,” *Stone-Campbell Journal*, (expected Spring 2023).

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 “Hagar and Her Children: Narrative, Allegory, and the Other in Christian Identity Construction,” Christian Scholars Conference, Houston, scheduled June 2023.
- 2022 “Hagar’s Children: Syriac Christian Portrayals of Early Islam,” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Denver, November 20, 2022.
- 2021 “Ephrem and the Construction of ‘Paganism’ on the Roman-Persian Border,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, November 22, 2021.
- 2021 “Naming Hagar’s Children,” Seventh Dorushe Graduate Conference in Syriac Studies, Saint Louis University, May 19, 2021.
- 2020 “The Shifting Hanpe in Syriac Christian Thought,” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, online, Dec 10, 2020.
- 2019 “Accessorizing Faith: Dress as a Sign of Conversion in Two Christian Martyrdom Accounts,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, November 24, 2019.
- 2019 “Etiologies in Syriac Christian Accounts of the Origins of Islam,” North American Syriac Symposium, Brown University, June 18, 2019.
- 2018 “‘Babes Who Need Milk’: Portraying Muslims as ‘Jews’ in Eastern Christian Polemic,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, November 17, 2018.
- 2018 “Transforming Christian Anti-Jewish Polemic in the Early Islamic Period,” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, May 25, 2018.
- 2018 “Lost in Translation: Early Versions of Daniel and Its Christian Interpretations,” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, May 24, 2018.

INVITED RESPONSES AND REVIEWS

- 2022 Reviewer, Leonard Allen’s *In the Great Stream: Imagining Churches of Christ in the Christian Tradition*, Christian Scholars Conference, Lipscomb University, June 8, 2022.
- 2022 Respondent, Fuller Ming Jr.’s “The Peshitta as Witness for Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible,” Hebrew Bible Graduate Student Colloquium, Christian Scholars Conference, Lipscomb University, June 9, 2022.
- 2021 Respondent, “Hermeneutics and Unity in and after Scripture: Genesis 3,” Christian Scholars Conference, Lipscomb University, June 11, 2021.

TEACHING

Pepperdine University, Seaver College

New Testament in Context

Fall 2021 (x2), Spring 2022 (x2), Fall 2022 (x3), Summer 2023 (x1), Fall 2023 (x2)

Saint Louis University

New Testament

Fall 2020 (HyFlex)

Abilene Christian University

Early Christians: Life, Literature, and Community

Spring 2021 (online)

Jesus: His Life and Teachings

Fall 2020 (online)

Christianity Encountering Islam

January Intensive 2021, 2020

Christianity in Culture

Summer 2020, 2021 (online intensive)

Spring 2019, Fall 2019 (online study abroad cohort)

Pedagogical Training

2017 – 2021 Principles in University Teaching Skills Certificate, Reinert Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning at Saint Louis University, awarded May 7, 2021

2020 Introduction to Online Teaching Seminar, Reinert Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning at Saint Louis University, June 16–30

2020 Ignatian Pedagogy Institute, Reinert Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning at Saint Louis University, Mar 9

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

2022 – present Committee on Professional Challenges, North American Patristics Society

2020 – present Steering Committee, Traditions of Eastern Late Antiquity Unit, American Academy of Religion National Meeting

2019 – 2021 Co-Chair, Seventh Dorushe Graduate Student Conference for Syriac Studies

2019 – 2021 Chair, Early Career Scholars in Theological Disciplines Unit, Christian Scholars Conference

2017 – 2019 Committee, Early Career Scholars in Theological Disciplines Unit, Christian Scholars Conference

2014 – 2016 Assistant Organizer, Carmichael Walling Lectures for the Study of the New Testament and Early Christianity, Abilene Christian University

2014 – 2016 Peer Reviewer, *Conversations: A Graduate Journal of the Humanities, Social Science and Theology*

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

- 2022 Undergraduate Research Mentor, Faculty-Student Mentoring Program, Pepperdine University
- 2019 – 2020 Search Committee, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Saint Louis University
- 2018 – 2019 Co-Chair, Theology Department Student Action Committee, Saint Louis University
- 2017 – 2018 Co-Chair, Conference Awards Committee, Graduate Student Association, Saint Louis University
- 2017 – 2018 Department Representative for Theology, Graduate Student Association, Saint Louis University
- 2015 – 2016 Student Representative, Association of Theological Schools Reaccreditation Self-Study Subcommittee, Abilene Christian University

SELECTED COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 2019 – 2021 Graduate Mentor, Gateway to McNair Scholars Program, Saint Louis University
- 2017 – 2021 Participant, Abrahamic Interfaith Dialogue at Aquinas Institute, Saint Louis, MO
- 2017 – 2021 Member, Interfaith Partnership of Greater Saint Louis

INVITED COMMUNITY AND CHURCH TALKS

- 2021 Lecturer, “Syriac Christianity and Early Islam,” Summer Syriac Course, Beth Mardutho Language School, August 13, 2021.
- 2021 Panelist, “The Legacy of Historical Criticism in Churches of Christ,” Christian Scholars Conference, Lipscomb University, June 10, 2021.
- 2020 Panelist, “PhD Interest Session: Thinking Beyond the Academy,” Stone-Campbell Journal Conference, moved online due to COVID-19, September 12, 2020.
- 2019 Panelist, “Life, Work, and Women in the Academy,” Center for the Study of Ancient Religious Texts, Abilene Christian University, March 27, 2019.
- 2016 “Encountering Islam: Lessons from Stone-Campbell History,” Pepperdine Bible Lectures, Pepperdine University, May 5, 2016.

LANGUAGES

Modern: German, French
Classical: Syriac, Greek, Latin, Hebrew, Arabic

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Religion in Late Antiquity, Biblical Interpretation and Reception, Syriac Christianity, Jewish-Christian-Muslim Interaction

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion
North American Patristics Society
Society of Biblical Literature
Stone-Campbell Scholars Community