

DR. MATTHEW CHALMERS

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EMPLOYMENT

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES | 2020-PRESENT
| NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

- Teaching: Christianity, Method and Theory in the Study of Religion, Late Antiquity
- Service: Director of Undergraduate Studies, 2020-present

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF RELIGION | 2019-2020 | WASHINGTON
AND LEE UNIVERSITY

- Teaching: Jewish Studies, Ancient Near East, Hebrew Bible, New Testament

EDUCATION

PHD | 2013-2019 | UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

- Department of Religious Studies
- *Dissertation:* Representations of Samaritans in Late Antique Jewish and Christian Texts

MPHIL | 2011-2013 | UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

- Theology (Patristics): Ancient Christianity, Greco-Roman philosophy, Mediterranean Religion

BA | 2008-2011 | UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

- Philosophy and Theology

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

Ancient: Greek; Coptic; Hebrew (incl. Samaritan); Aramaic (incl. Samaritan); Latin; Syriac

Modern: French, German, Hebrew

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED

Co-authored with Kameliya Atanasova (Washington and Lee University), The Status of Samaritans in Early Ottoman Palestine [under review]

Past Paul's Jewishness: The Benjaminite Paul in Epiphanius of Cyprus [accepted for publication in *Harvard Theological Review*]

The Rise and Fall of Peripheral Peoples? Samaritans and Late Antique Discourses of Disaster [accepted for publication in *Studies in Late Antiquity*]

Jewish Knowledge, Christian Scholars, and the European 'Discovery' of Samaritans [in *The Samaritans: Tales of a Biblical People*, ed. Steven Fine (Brill), in-press]

2021. Samaritans, Biblical Studies, and Ancient Judaism: Recent Trends. *Currents in Biblical Research* 20: 28-64.

2020. Rethinking Luke 10: The Parable of the Good Samaritan Israelite. *Journal of Biblical Literature* 139: 543-66.

2020. Viewing Samaritans Jewishly: Josephus, the Samaritans, and the Identification of Israel. *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 51: 339-66.

2014. Seeking as Suckling: The Milk of the Father in Clement of Alexandria's *Paedagogus* I.6. *Studia Patristica* 72: 59-73.

RECENT PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

June 24, 2021: Writer for the episode: "Who are the Samaritans?", collab with *Religion for Breakfast* (link: [Who Are the Samaritans? - YouTube](#)), >200k views as of 29/12/2021

May 5, 2021: Guest interview for "Episode 45: The Samaritans," at the *Levantini Podcast* (link: [Episode 45: The Samaritans — The Levantini Podcast](#))

OTHER ARTICLES

2020. Pandemic Pedagogy: Pamphlet Final Projects and Laughter. *Ancient Jew Review*, May 17. <https://www.ancientjewreview.com/articles/2020/5/17/pandemic-pedagogy-pamphlet-final-projects-and-laughter>

2019. The Samaritan Other: Representation, History, and Lost Late Ancient Difference. *Ancient Jew Review*, November 12. <https://www.ancientjewreview.com/articles/2019/11/12/the-samaritan-other-representation-history-and-lost-late-ancient-difference>

2019. “Malachi,” “Melchizedek.” In Christine Helmer et al., *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception Online*.

2017. “Anti-Semitism” before “Semites”: The Risks and Rewards of Anachronism. *The Public Medievalist*, July 13. <http://www.publicmedievalist.com/anti-semitism-before-semites/>

2017. How the Nineteenth Century Misplaced the Samaritans. *Journal of the History of Ideas Blog*, June 20. <https://jhiblog.org/2017/06/20/how-the-nineteenth-century-misplaced-the-samaritans/>

REVIEWS

[Forthcoming 2021.] Review of Christoph Marksches, *God’s Body: Jewish, Christian, and Pagan Images of God (Reading Religion)*

2021. Review of Gary Knoppers, *Judah and Samaria in Postmonarchic Times. Essays on Their Histories and Literatures* (Mohr Siebeck, 2019). *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 52: 14-17.

2020. Review of Elizabeth Clark, *The Fathers Refounded: Protestant Liberalism, Roman Catholic Modernism, and the Teaching of Ancient Christianity in Early Twentieth-Century America* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2019)

<https://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/book/14842.html>

2018. Review of Michael Stewart Williams, *The Politics of Heresy in Ambrose of Milan* (Cambridge University Press, 2017). *Ancient Jew Review*. July 23.

<http://www.ancientjewreview.com/articles/2018/5/11/book-note-the-politics-of-heresy-in-ambrose-of-milan>

2018. Review of Moshe Blidstein, *Purity, Community, and Ritual in Early Christian Literature* (Oxford, 2017). *Reading Religion*. March 28. <http://readingreligion.org/books/purity-community-and-ritual-early-christian-literature>

2018. Review of Éric Rebillard, *Greek and Latin Narratives about the Ancient Martyrs* (Oxford, 2017). *Ancient Jew Review*. January 21. www.ancientjewreview.com/articles/2017/9/5/book-note-greek-and-latin-narratives-about-the-ancient-martyrs

2017. Review of Reinhard Pummer, *The Samaritans: A Profile* (W.B. Eerdmans, 2016). *Reading Religion*. October 13. <http://readingreligion.org/books/samaritans>

2017. Thinking with Samaritans and Cynthia Baker's Jew. In Shaul Magid and Annette Yoshiko Reed, eds., *Marginalia Review of Books: Forum on Cynthia Baker, Jew*. [Review Essay] June 5. <http://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/thinking-samaritans-cynthia-bakers-jew/>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

INSTRUCTOR, Department of Religious Studies, Northwestern

[Spring 2022] Who is Israel? Jews, Christians, Samaritans in Antiquity

Intro to New Testament

[Winter 2022] Intro to Christianity

Fall 2021 Blasphemy

First-year seminar: When did people first become Christian?

Spring 2021 Ancient Books and their Powers

Intro to Christianity

Winter 2021 How Thin is a Demon? Ancient Bodies

Intro to New Testament

Fall 2020 Christianity and the Fall of Rome

INSTRUCTOR, Department of Religion, Washington and Lee University

Spring 2020 From Judeophobia to Antisemitism

Winter 2020 Intro to New Testament

The Rise of Religion and the Fall of Rome

Fall 2019 Intro to Hebrew Bible

Corporeal Religion: The Body in Judaism

INSTRUCTOR, Department of Religious Studies, University of Pennsylvania

Fall 2017 Religions of the West: Judaism, Christianity, Islam

Teaching assistant for:

PennX: Tabernacle in Word & Image: An Italian Jewish Manuscript Revealed (MOOC)

Greek and Roman Mythology

Ancient Greek History

New Testament and Christian Origins

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND INVITED LECTURES

- 2022 [Forthcoming, invited lecture] “Samaritan Interpretation and the Religions of Late Antiquity,” *Late Antiquity Workshop*, February 11 (UT Austin)
- 2021 Review panel member for Matthew Jackson-McCabe, *Jewish-Christianity: The Making of the Christianity-Judaism Divide*, *Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting*, November 19-22 (San Antonio)
- 2021 “The Late Antique Samaritans: Rethinking the Shape of Religions,” *Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting*, November 19-22 (San Antonio)
- 2021 “Samaritans, the Syrohexapla, and the Aspirations of Biblical Philology,” *Early Christian Studies Workshop/Hebrew Bible Workshop*, April 6 (UChicago)

[Note: all conferences in 2020 were cancelled, or presentations delayed, due to COVID-19]

- 2019 “Why No-One Read Epiphanius’ Book: Information Overload and the Biography of the *Panarion*,” *Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting*, November 23-26 (San Diego).
- 2019 “Taxes and Turbans: The Status of Samaritans in Ottoman Palestine,” *Status and Justice in Law, Religion, and Society*, November 1-3 (Washington and Lee School of Law).
- 2019 “Late Antique Samaritans, Disaster Narratives, and Historiographical Loss,” *Shifting Frontiers in Late Antiquity XIII*, March 14-17 (Clermont).
- 2019 “Samaritans, Regional Coalition, and the Limits of Imperial Authority in Late Antique Palestine,” *Society of Classical Studies*, January 3-6 (San Diego).
- 2018 “Samaritan Script, Hybrid Torah, and Contested Identity in Epiphanius’ *On Gems*,” *Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting*, November 17-20 (Denver).
- 2018 “Beyond Boundaries: Epiphanius, *On Gems*, and an alt-history of the Samaritans,” *North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting*, May 25-27 (Chicago).

- 2018 “Kutim/Samaritans and Taking Rabbinic ‘Heresiology’ on its Own Terms,” *Sixth Ancient Judaism Regional Seminar*, Princeton, April 29-30.
- 2018 “The Other Israelites: Samaritans and the Early Christians,” *Classical Humanities Society of New Jersey*, Stockton University, February 1.
- 2017 “Samaritan Violence and Beyond: Interrogating the Historiographical Precarity of Late Antique Samaritans,” Violence and Representations of Violence in Antiquity, *Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting*, November 19 (Boston).
- 2017 “Thinking with Animals: Animals as a Knowledge-Ordering Technology,” with Peter Struck and Donovan Schaefer, *Philadelphia Seminar of Christian Origins*, University of Pennsylvania, Nov 2.
- 2017 “John Chrysostom, Cyril of Jerusalem, and the Samaritan ‘Other’,” *North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting*, May 26 (Chicago).
- 2017 “Rethinking Religion in the Imaginal World of Civilization 6,” *Imaginal Worlds: Religion in Speculative and Fan Fiction*, Columbia University, April 7.
- 2017 “Rethinking the Samaritan-Jewish ‘Schism’,” *Fifth Ancient Judaism Regional Seminar*, New York University, March 5.

OTHER FIELD PARTICIPATION

Research Group Member | *SORAAD – The Study of Religion as an Analytical Discipline at the University of Regina* | January 2021- present

- Year theme: Representation and the Analytical Study of Religion
- Research group: Religions, Representations, and Premoderns
- Organized with Alana Vincent, Eva Mroczek, and James Crossley

Panel Organizer | *Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting* | November 2021

- Unit: Social History of Formative Judaism and Christianity (Mika Ahuvia and Philippa Townsend)
- Theme: “New Directions in Samaritan Studies”
- Organized with Katharina Keim (Lund)

Presiding | *Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting* | November 22-26, 2019

- S23-131: Jewish Christianity/Christian Judaism
- S24-144: Religion and Philosophy in Late Antiquity

Invited Seminar Panelist | *Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting* | December 16-18, 2018

- “The Benjamite Identity of Epiphanius’ Paul,” in seminar addressing the late ancient reception of Paul’s Jewishness
- With Andrew Jacobs, Paula Fredriksen, Joshua Garroway, Jill Hicks-Keeton (organizer) and Cavan Concannon (organizer)

Panel Organizer | *North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting* | May 25-27, 2018

- Theme: “Thinking With and Beyond ‘Boundaries’ in Late Ancient Christianity”
- Organized with M Tong (Fordham University)

Co-Chair | *55th Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins (PSCO)* | September 2017-May 2018

- Theme: “What did the Jews Know? Jews and Science in the Ancient World”
- With Natalie Dohrmann (Penn)

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, GRANTS

School of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania (2018-2019)

Benjamin Franklin Graduate Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania (2013-2015; 2016-2018)

DIGITAL HUMANITIES AND EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Peer Review Editor | *Ancient Jew Review* (www.ancientjewreview.com) | August 2021-

- Peer Review coordinator for *AJR*’s double-blind peer-review track
- Editorial input and oversight regarding peer-review, editorial duties, publication, copy-editing

Deputy Editor of Late Antiquity | *Ancient Jew Review* (www.ancientjewreview.com)
| August 2018-August 2021

- Co-editor of a subscription-free digital journal for the publication of academic articles, review, and pedagogical methods devoted to ancient Judaism and the study of the ancient world
- Editorial input and oversight regarding upcoming publications, liaising with content-creators

Technology Assistant | *Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, MOOC: The Art of Building the Tabernacle in Words* | January 2018-May 2018

- Part of team developing a mini-MOOC (Massive Open Online Course), collaborating with Alessandro Guetta (Paris) and Natalie Dohrmann (Penn) on Italian Jewish manuscripts
- Course provides an overview of Malkiel Ashkenazi's *Tavnit ha-mishkan* (CAJS Rar Ms. 460)

English Language Editor | Samaritan Pentateuch: Leviticus | March-April 2018

- English language editing for foreword and paratext of Leviticus volume of Samaritan Pentateuch critical edition; first critical edition since von Gall (1914-18)
- Project overseen by Prof. Dr. Stefan Schorch (Martin-Luther-Universität-Halle-Wittenberg)

English Language Editor | Samaritan Midrash Translation Project | 2015-2017

- Edition and translation of the major Samaritan midrash *Tibåt Mårqe* (De Gruyter 2020) by Abraham Tal (Tel Aviv)
- Project overseen by Prof. Dr. Stefan Schorch (Martin-Luther-Universität-Halle-Wittenberg)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Jewish Studies
Society of Biblical Literature

North American Patristics Society
Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins