

Curriculum Vitae

James F. McGrath
Butler University
4600 Sunset Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46208

e-mail: jfmccgrat@butler.edu
web page: <http://blue.butler.edu/~jfmccgrat/>
blog: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/religionprof/>
Tel. (317) 940-9364

Qualifications and Studies:

Doctor of Philosophy: University of Durham (awarded July 1998). Title: “John's Apologetic Christology: Legitimation and Development in Johannine Christology.” Supervisor: Prof. James D. G. Dunn.

Bachelor of Divinity: University of London (awarded July 1995). 2:1 honors and second prize.

Diploma in Religious studies: University of Cambridge (awarded August 1993). With distinction.

Faculty Work Experience:

Present Employment:

Clarence L. Goodwin Chair of New Testament Language and Literature, Butler University, Indianapolis, 2002-present
Began as associate professor of religion, later tenured, promoted to full professor, and installed as Goodwin Chair.
Classes taught: The Bible; The Historical Jesus; The Gospel of John; The Book of Revelation; Paul and the Early Church; Heresy in Early Christianity; Bible and Music; Religion and Science; Religion and Science Fiction; Religious Faith and Scientific Vocations Seminar; Religion, Refugees, and Migration Seminar; First Year Seminar: Faith, Doubt and Reason; Change & Tradition: China and the Islamic Middle East, Global & Historical Studies: South Asian Civilizations; Field Seminars/Short-term study abroad (Israel, Latvia, India)

Past Employment:

Adjunct Professor, Alliance Theological Seminary, New York, September 2001-May 2002
Classes taught: Biblical Interpretation, New Testament Background; New Testament Theology; Gospel of Matthew

Adjunct Professor, Biblical Theological Seminary, Hatfield, PA, September 2001-May 2002
Classes taught: Introductory New Testament Greek (2 semesters); Cross-Cultural Missions; Johannine Literature and General Epistles

Assistant Professor of New Testament, Emanuel University and University of Oradea, Romania, September 1998 – May 2001.

Courses taught: Intertestamental Period, New Testament Study (1) - Galatians, Elements of Biblical Linguistics, Exegesis in Greek (2 semesters): Romans 1-8, New Testament Study (2) - Matthew, New Testament Theology (Semester 2); Summer program: Culture, Communication and the Christian Mission
Other duties: Supervision of final-year dissertations, coordination of timetable for full-time and part-time (distance learning) programs, curriculum development, coordination of Staff Theological Research Seminar.

Part-time consultant, World Bible Translation Center, Fort Worth, Texas, 2000-2005

Academic Publications

Books authored:

John of History, Baptist of Faith. The Quest for the Historical Baptizer. Eerdmans, 2024.
Christmaker: A Life of John the Baptist. Eerdmans, 2024.
A to Z of the New Testament. Eerdmans, 2023.
The Bible and Music. PALNI Press, 2023.
What Jesus Learned from Women. Cascade, 2021.
The Battle of Ranskoor av Kolos. Black Archive #52. Obverse Books, 2021.
Theology and Science Fiction. Cascade Companions. Cascade, 2016.
The Burial of Jesus: What Does History Have to Do With Faith? Patheos Press, 2012.
The Only True God: Early Christian Monotheism in Its Jewish Context. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2009.
John's Apologetic Christology: Legitimation and Development in Johannine Christology. SNTS Monograph Series, Cambridge University Press, 2001.

Books co-authored:

With Charles Häberl. *The Mandaean Book of John: Critical Edition, Translation, and Commentary.* Berlin: De Gruyter, 2019.
With Frank Felice, *Theology and Progressive Rock* (under contract with Lexington Books/Fortress Press for their Theology and Popular Culture series).

Books edited:

Time and Relative Dimensions in Faith: Religion and Doctor Who. Co-edited with Andrew Crome. Darton, Longman, and Todd, 2013.
Religion and Science Fiction. Pickwick Press, 2011; Lutterworth Press, 2012.
Handbook of Mandaean Studies, edited by Matthew Morgenstern, Charles Häberl, and James McGrath, under contract with E. J. Brill. for publication in the series Das Handbuch der Orientalistik.

Articles and Book Chapters:

“Passé, présent, avenir de la chrétienté dans la science-fiction.” Forthcoming in a volume edited by Franck Damour.
“Judeophobia in Contemporary Culture.” Forthcoming in *Judeophobia and the New Testament.* Edited by Sarah Rollens, Meredith Warren, and Eric Vanden Eykel. Eerdmans.
“Mystery, Answers, and Faith: the Island and Theological Method.” Forthcoming in *Theology and LOST.* Edited by June-Ann Greeley. Lexington/Fortress.
“Resurrection and Afterlife.” In *The Bible and Science Fiction.* Edited by Kelly Jean Murphy and Nicole Tilford. BibRec. SBL Press, 2023. pp. 187-205.
“Gods and Theology in the Star Trek Universe: The First Commandment and the Prime Directive.” In *Theology and Star Trek.* Edited by Shaun Brown and Amanda McInnis. Lexington/Fortress, 2023.
“Heroic Women of the New Testament.” In *The Biblical World of Gender: The Daily Lives of Ancient Women and Men.* Edited by Celina Durgin and Dru Johnson. Cascade, 2022, pp.46-51.
“Word of God and the W(h)ill of the Force: Canon, Authority, and Truth of and within the Star Wars Universe.” In *Theology and the Star Wars Universe.* Edited by Benjamin Espinoza. Lexington/Fortress, 2022, pp.7-22.
“Not some crazy spiritual thing”: Rewards, Punishment, and Afterlife on Black Mirror.’ In *Theology and Black Mirror.* Edited by Amber Bowen and John Anthony Donne. Lexington/Fortress, 2022, pp.213-229.
“Mandaicism and Christianity” (contracted chapter for the *Handbook of Mandaean Studies* - see above).

“Epistles: The Writing on the Floor” *Biblical Archaeology Review* 47:1 (Spring 2021) 72, 74.

“Abductions Angelic and Alien: The Changing Cosmologies of Otherworldly Journeys,” in *Intersections of Religion and Astronomy*, ed. Aaron Ricker, Chris Corbally, and Darryl Dinell. London: Routledge, 2021, 164-175.

“Creation in American Popular Culture,” in *Oxford Handbook on the Bible and American Popular Culture*. ed. Dan W. Clanton, Jr. and Terry R. Clark. Oxford University Press, 2021, 145-161.

“Milestones: James D.G. Dunn: Influential New Testament Scholar” *Biblical Archaeology Review* 46:5 (Winter 2020) 20.

“Exorcising Mythicism’s Sky-Demons: A Response to Raphael Lataster’s ‘Questioning Jesus’ Historicity,’ in *The Bible and Interpretation* August 2019. [<https://bibleinterp.arizona.edu/articles/exorcising-mythicisms-sky-demons-response-raphael-latasters-questioning-jesus-historicity>]

“Learning from Jesus’ Wife: What Does Forgery Have to do with the Digital Humanities?” in *Ancient manuscripts in digital culture: visualisation, data, communication*, edited by David Hamidović, Claire Clivaz and Sarah Savant, with the collaboration of Alessandra Marguerat (*Digital Biblical Studies* 3) Leiden : E. J. Brill, 2019, 241-260.

“The Gospel of John as Jewish Messianism: Formative Influences and Neglected Avenues in the History of Scholarship” in *Reading the Gospel of John’s Christology as Jewish Messianism: Royal, Prophetic, and Divine Messiahs*, edited by Gabrielle Boccaccini and Benjamin Reynolds. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2018, 43-65.

“Biblical Studies and Science Fiction” in Thomas Jay Oord (editor), *Theologians and Philosophers Using Social Media: Advice, Tips, and Testimonials*. San Diego: Sacra Sage, 2017, 283-287.

“Slow Scholarship: Do Bloggers Rush In Where Jesus’ Wife Would Fear To Tread?” in *Fakes, Forgeries, and Fictions: Writing Ancient and Modern Christian Apocrypha*, ed. Tony Burke, Eugene: Cascade, 2017, 326-340.

“Kinship of Jesus. Film,” *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception Volume 15*. Berlin: DeGruyter, 2017, 337-338.

“Obedient Unto Death: Philippians 2:8, Gethsemane, and the Historical Jesus,” in *JSHJ* 14:3 (2016) 223-240.

“What has Coruscant to Do with Jerusalem? A Response and Reflections at the Crossroads of Hebrew Bible and Science Fiction,” in “*Not in the Spaces We Know*”: *An Exploration of Science Fiction and the Bible*, ed. Frauke Uhlenbruch. *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures* 16 (2016) 79-93.

“Orality and Intertextuality,” in *Exploring Intertextuality*, ed. B. J. Oropeza, Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2016, 176-186.

“A God Needs Compassion, but Not a Starship: Star Trek’s Humanist Theology,” in *The Ultimate Star Trek and Philosophy: The Search for Socrates*, ed. Kevin S. Decker and Jason T. Eberl. Malden: John Wiley & Sons, 2016, 315-325.

“Jesus’ Brothers and Sisters. III. Film,” in *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*. Berlin: DeGruyter, 2017, 105-107. [https://www.degruyter.com/view/EBR/key_2442696f-9dd5-470a-baad-36b20a307cf7?rskey=Eyihlj&result=13&dbq_0=McGrath&dbf_0=ebf-fulltext&dbt_0=fulltext&o_0=AND]

“Illegitimate Offspring. VI. Film,” in *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*. vol.12. Berlin: DeGruyter, 2016, 870-871.

“Foreword” to *The Son of God: Three Views of the Identity of Jesus*, by Charles Lee Irons, Danny Andre Dixon, and Dustin R. Smith. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2015.

“Explicit and Implicit Religion in Doctor Who and Star Trek,” *Implicit Religion* 18:4 (2015) 471-484.

“Polemic, Redaction, and History in the Mandaean Book of John: The Case of the Lightworld Visitors to Jerusalem,” *ARAM Periodical* 25 (2013) 375-382.

“Monotheism,” in *Vocabulary for the Study of Religion* ed. Robert A. Segal and Kocku Von Stuckrad (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2015).

“Mythicism and the Making of Mark” in *The Bible and Interpretation* August 2015 [<http://www.bibleinterp.com/articles/2015/08/mcg398026.shtml>]

“Religion’s Futures and the Future’s Religions through the Lens of Science Fiction” in *The Changing World Religions Map*, ed. Stan Brunn (New York: Springer, 2015) 2893-2905.

“Monotheism,” in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Ethics*, ed. Robert L. Brawley (Oxford University Press, 2014) 57-64.

“Did Jesus Die in Outer Space? Evaluating a Key Claim in Richard Carrier’s On the Historicity of Jesus” in *The Bible & Interpretation* October 2014 [<http://www.bibleinterp.com/articles/2014/10/mcg388028.shtml>]

“John 2:13-16,” “The Three Johns,” and “The Woman at the Well” - contributions to the Society of Biblical Literature Bible Odyssey website.

“Mythicism and the Mainstream: The Rhetoric and Realities of Academic Freedom” in *The Bible and Interpretation* March 2014. [<http://www.bibleinterp.com/articles/2014/03/mcg388024.shtml>]

“Epilogue” in *Time and Relative Dimensions in Faith* (see above).

“Revisiting the Mandaeans and the New Testament” in *The Bible & Interpretation* August 2013 [<http://www.bibleinterp.com/articles/2013/08/mcg378026.shtml>]

“On Hearing (Rather Than Reading) Intertextual Echoes: Christology and Monotheistic Scriptures in an Oral Context,” *Biblical Theology Bulletin* 43:2 (May 2013) 74-80.

“Burial of Jesus. II. Christianity. B. Modern Europe and America” in *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception. Vol.4*, ed. Dale C. Allison Jr., Volker Leppin, Choon-Leong Seow, Hermann Spieckermann, Barry Dov Walfish, and Eric Ziolkowski, (Berlin: de Gruyter, 2012).

“Robots, Rights and Religion” and “Introduction” in *Religion and Science Fiction*, ed. James F. McGrath (Pickwick Press, 2011) [see above].

“Religion and Science Fiction” in *Sense of Wonder: A Century of Science Fiction* ed. Leigh Grossman (Wildside Press, 2011) 394-395.

“Fringe View: The World of Jesus Mythicism” in *The Christian Century* 128:23 (November 2011) 12-13.

“Mark’s Missing Ending: Clues from the Gospel of John and the Gospel of Peter” in *The Bible and Interpretation* February 2011 [<http://www.bibleinterp.com/articles/mcg.shtml>]

“Reading the Story of Miriai on Two Levels: Evidence from Mandaean Anti-Jewish Polemic about the Origins and Setting of Early Mandaeism” *ARAM Periodical* 22 (2010) 583-592.

“Biblioblogging Our Matrix: Exploring the Potential and Perplexities of Academic Blogging” *Bulletin for the Study of Religion* 39:3 (September 2010) 7-12.

“The Desert of the Real: Christianity, Buddhism & Baudrillard in The Matrix films and popular culture”, in *Visions of the Human in Science Fiction and Cyberpunk*, ed. Marcus Leaning and Birgit Pretzsch (Inter-Disciplinary Press, 2010) 161-172. [<http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/publishing/id-press/ebooks/visions-of-the-human-in-science-fiction-cyberpunk/>]

“Written Islands in an Oral Stream” in *Jesus and Paul: Global Perspectives in Honor of James D. G. Dunn for His 70th Birthday*, edited by B. J. Oropeza, Douglas C. Mohrmann, and C. K. Robertson (Library of New Testament Studies, 414; T&T Clark, 2009) 3-12.

““Destroy This Temple”: Issues of History in John 2”, in *John, Jesus, and History, Volume 2: Aspects of Historicity in the Fourth Gospel* edited by Paul N. Anderson, Felix Just, and Tom Thatcher (Society of Biblical Literature Symposium Series, 44; Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature Press, 2009) 35-43.

“Artificial Minds and Human Religions: An illustration of the diversity of possible intersections between religious thought and practice and technological advances,” *Transdisciplinary Approaches of the Dialogue between Science, Art and Religion in the Europe of Tomorrow. 9-11 September 2007* edited by Basarab Nicolescu and Magda Stavinschi (Sibiu: Curtea Veche, 2008; ISBN: 978-973-669-596-4).

“History and Fiction in the Acts of Thomas: The State of the Question”, *Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha* 17 (2008) 297-311

“Jesus as False Prophet” in *Who Do My Opponents Say That I Am? Investigating the Accusations Against Jesus* (Library of Historical Jesus Studies), Scot McKnight and Joseph Modica, eds. London: T&T Clark, 2008, 95-110.

“Was Jesus Illegitimate? The Evidence of His Social Interactions,” *JSHJ* 5.1 (2007) 81-100.

“Temelia escatologică a soteriologiei pauline” in *'Care Imparte Drept Cuvântul Adevarului'. Volum Omagial Ioan Bunaciu*, ed. Otniel Bunaciu, Radu Gheorghita and Emil Bartoş (Oradea: Editura Reformatio, 2005 ISBN 973-86076-5-5) 75-84.

“Neo: Messianic Superhero of *The Matrix*”, *The Gospel According to Superheroes*, ed. B. J. Oropeza. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2005, 255-268.

““Two Powers” and Early Jewish and Christian Monotheism” (with Jerry Truex), *Journal of Biblical Studies* 4:1 (January 2004). ISSN: 1534-3057

“The Desert of the Real: Christianity, Buddhism & Baudrillard in The Matrix films and popular culture”, in *Visions of the Human in Science Fiction and Cyberpunk*, ed. Marcus Leaning and Birgit Pretzsch, Inter-Disciplinary Press, 2004. ISBN 1-904710-16-6

““A Glutton and a Drunkard”? What Would Jesus Drink?”, *Religion and Alcohol: Sobering Thoughts*, ed. C. K. Robertson. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2004, 11-43.

“Religion, But Not as We Know It: Spirituality and Sci-Fi,” in *Religion as Entertainment*, ed. C. K. Robertson. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2002, 153-172.

“Christology on Two Fronts: A New Testament Model for 'Doing' Christology in a Pluralistic Context,” *Religion and Theology* 6/1 (1999) 65-82.

“A Rebellious Son? Hugo Odeberg and the Interpretation of John 5.18,” *New Testament Studies* 44 (1998) 470-473.

“Change in Christology: New Testament Models and the Contemporary Task,” *Irish Theological Quarterly* 63/1 (1998) 39-50.

“Going Up and Coming Down in Johannine Legitimation,” *Neotestamentica* 31/1 (1997) 107-118

“Prologue as Legitimation: Christological Controversy and the Interpretation of John 1:1-18,” *Irish Biblical Studies* 19 (June 1997) 98-120.

“Uncontrived Messiah or Passover Plot? A Study of A Johannine Apologetic Motif,” *Irish Biblical Studies* 19 (January 1997) 2-16.

“Johannine Christianity - Jewish Christianity?” *Koinonia* VIII.1 (1996) 1-20.

Bibliographical:

With Jerry Truex, “Early Jewish and Christian Monotheism: A Select Bibliography”, in *Early Jewish and Christian Monotheism*, ed. Loren T. Stuckenbruck and Wendy E. S. North (JSNTSup 263); London/New York: T&T Clark (Continuum), 2004, 235-242.

Reviews:

Gabriele Mayer, *Im Namen des Grossen Lebens: Johannes der Täufer im Johannesbuch der Mandäer*, *Journal of Semitic Studies*, Volume 67, Issue 2, Autumn 2022, pp. e37-e39.

M. David Litwa, *The Evil Creator: Origins of an Early Christian Idea* in *RBL* (8/13/2022) <https://sblcentral.org/home/bookDetails/1000601>

John Kaltner and Steven L. McKenzie, *Sleuthing the Bible: Clues That Unlock the Mysteries of the Text* in *RBL* (2/4/2021) <https://www.sblcentral.org/home/bookDetails/13109>

Leonard J. Swidler, *Three Jesus Certitudes: Pacifism, Feminism, and the Birth of Christianity* in *RBL* (7/30/2020) <https://www.bookreviews.org/bookdetail.asp?TitleId=12528>

Nicholas Pumphrey, *Superman and the Bible: How the Idea of Superheroes Affects the Reading of Scripture*. Jefferson: McFarland, *Reading Religion* 13 November 2019. <https://readingreligion.org/books/superman-and-bible>

Kevin T. van Bladel. *From Sasanian Mandaeans to Sābians of the Marshes*. Leiden: Brill, 2017. in *Reviews of the Enoch Seminar* 2019.01.01 <http://enochseminar.org/review/15381>

April D. DeConick, *The Gnostic New Age: How a Countercultural Spirituality Revolutionized Religion From Antiquity to Today* in *RBL* (1/18/2018) <https://www.bookreviews.org/BookDetail.asp?TitleId=11396>

Siobhán Dowling Long and John F.A. Sawyer (eds.), *The Bible in Music: A Dictionary of Songs, Works, and More* in *RBL* (1/11/2018) <http://www.bookreviews.org/BookDetail.asp?TitleId=10778>

Mark R. Amstutz, *Just Immigration: American Policy in Christian Perspective* in *Reading Religion* (11/16/2017) <http://readingreligion.org/books/just-immigration>

Max Küchler, *Jerusalem: Ein Handbuch und Studienreiseführer zur Heiligen Stadt* in *RBL* (8/3/2017) <https://www.bookreviews.org/bookdetail.asp?TitleId=10984>

Charles M. Stang, *Our Divine Double* in *RBL* (7/27/2017) <http://www.bookreviews.org/BookDetail.asp?TitleId=11208>

Andrew J. Brown, *The Days of Creation: A History of Christian Interpretation of Genesis 1:1-2:3 in RBL* (7/20/2017) <http://www.bookreviews.org/BookDetail.asp?TitleId=10844>

Helen Leneman and Barry Dov Walfish (editors), *The Bible Retold by Jewish Artists, Writers, Composers and Filmmakers* in *RBL* (7/6/2017) <http://www.bookreviews.org/BookDetail.asp?TitleId=11138>

Nina Henrichs-Tarasenkova, *Luke's Christology of Divine Identity* in *RBL* (5/18/2017) <https://www.bookreviews.org/bookdetail.asp?TitleId=11013>

Max Stern, *Psalms and Music: Influences of the Psalms on Western Music* in *RBL* (2/9/2017) <https://www.bookreviews.org/bookdetail.asp?TitleId=10507>

Bart D. Ehrman, *Jesus Before the Gospels: How the Earliest Christians Remembered, Changed, and Invented Their Stories of the Savior* in *RBL* (2/2/2017) <https://www.bookreviews.org/bookdetail.asp?TitleId=11126>

Matthew Bates, *The Birth of the Trinity: Jesus, God, and Spirit in New Testament and Early Christian Interpretations of the Old Testament* in *RBL* (11/13/2016) <http://www.bookreviews.org/BookDetail.asp?TitleId=10421>

Rodney J. Decker, *Reading Koine Greek: An Introduction and Integrated Workbook* in *RBL* (9/15/2016) <https://www.bookreviews.org/bookdetail.asp?TitleId=10021>

George A. Kiraz, ed.; J. Edward Walters, trans., *Galatians to Philemon according to the Syriac Peshitta Version with English Translation* in *RBL* (9/1/2016) <https://www.bookreviews.org/bookdetail.asp?TitleId=9272>

Maurice Casey, *Jesus: Evidence and Arguments or Mythicist Myths?* in *RBL* (6/26/2015) <http://www.bookreviews.org/BookDetail.asp?TitleId=9729>

Tony Burke (editor), *Ancient Gospel or Modern Forgery?: The Secret Gospel of Mark in Debate: Proceedings from the 2011 York University Christian Apocrypha Symposium* in *RBL* (5/5/2015) http://www.bookreviews.org/pdf/9622_10634.pdf

Margaret Atwood's MaddAddam trilogy in *The Marginalia Review of Books* September 3rd, 2013 <http://themarginaliareview.com/archives/3662>

Peter Enns, *The Evolution of Adam*, *RNCSE* 33:6 (2013) <http://reports.ncse.com/index.php/rncse/article/view/247/370>

Thomas L. Thompson and Thomas Verenna (editors), 'Is This Not the Carpenter?': *The Question of the Historicity of the Figure of Jesus in RBL* (August 2013) http://www.bookreviews.org/pdf/8846_9740.pdf

J.A. Waddell, *The Messiah: A Comparative Study of the Enochic Son of Man and the Pauline Kyrios* in *Henoch* 34 (2/2012) 399-401.

Dennis R. MacDonald, *Two Shipwrecked Gospels: The Logoi of Jesus and Papias's Exposition of Logia about the Lord* in *RBL* (February 2013) http://www.bookreviews.org/pdf/8565_9390.pdf

Christian Eberhart, *The Sacrifice of Jesus: Understanding Atonement Biblically in Interpretation* 67:1 (January 2013): 91.

Michel Roberge, *The Paraphrase of Shem: Introduction, Translation and Commentary in RBL* (January 2012) http://www.bookreviews.org/pdf/7794_8498.pdf

Riemer Roukema, *Jesus, Gnosis and Dogma* in *RBL* (October 2011) http://www.bookreviews.org/pdf/7615_8330.pdf

David Brakke, *The Gnostics* in *RBL* (September 2011) http://www.bookreviews.org/pdf/7825_8539.pdf

So Long Been Dreaming: Postcolonial Science Fiction & Fantasy ed. Nalo Hopkinson and Uppinder Mehan, (Arsenal Pulp Press 2004) in *Journal of Postcolonial Theory and Theology* Vol.2 (May 2011) <http://postcolonialjournal.com/Resources/Review%20Hopkinson.pdf>

John Walton, *The Lost World of Genesis One* in *Reports of the National Center for Science Education* Vol. 30 No.1-2 (Jan-Apr 2010): 52-53.

Bogdan Gabriel Bucur, *Angelomorphic Pneumatology: Clement of Alexandria and Other Early Christian Witnesses* in *Review of Biblical Literature* (May 2010) http://www.bookreviews.org/pdf/7286_7930.pdf

Gerald O'Collins, *Christology: A Biblical, Historical, and Systematic Study of Jesus* (Oxford University Press, 2009) in *Review of Biblical Literature* (April 2010) http://www.bookreviews.org/pdf/7264_7905.pdf

Kenneth Bailey, *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes* in *Sharing the Practice* 31:3 (Autumn 2008): 19-20.

Jack Clayton Swearingen, *Beyond Paradise: Technology and the Kingdom of God in Teaching Theology and Religion* 11:4 (2008): 236.

Birger Pearson, *Ancient Gnosticism: Ancient Gnosticism: Traditions and Literature* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2007) in *Review of Biblical Literature* (June 2008). http://www.bookreviews.org/pdf/6053_6718.pdf

Review of Larry W. Hurtado, *The Early Christian Artifacts: Manuscripts and Christian Origins*, in *Review of Biblical Literature* (September 2007). <http://www.bookreviews.org/pdf/5643_6203.pdf>

Review of N. Clayton Croy, *The Mutilation of Mark's Gospel*, *Teaching Theology & Religion* 9:1 (2006): 65-66.

Review of James C. VanderKam, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Today*, in *Folia Orientalia* 33 (1997): 235-237.

Review of Lawrence H. Schiffman, *Reclaiming the Dead Sea Scrolls. The History of Judaism, the Background of Christianity, the Lost Library of Qumran*, in *Qumran Chronicle* Vol.6 No.1/4 (December 1996): 167-170.

Review of Barbara Thiering, *Jesus of the Apocalypse. The Life of Jesus after the Crucifixion*, in *Qumran Chronicle* Vol.6 No.1/4 (December 1996): 170-172.

Various other reviews at <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/religionprof/>

Academic Papers and Presentations (Conference Papers and Invited Lectures)

“The Son of Man Who Is To Come: The Shared Expectations of John and Jesus.”

SNTS Vienna 2023.

“ChatGPT & Google vs Star Trek's Computer: AI and the Flow of (Mis)Information.” Newell Scholar Lecture at Georgia College and State University, February 28, 2023.

“John the Baptist in the Christmas Story” Centre for the Study of Christian Origins Annual Christmas lecture at the University of Edinburgh, 6 December 2022.

“John the Baptist in the Christmas Story” public lecture at Magdalen College, University of Oxford, 1 December 2022.

“The Drower Collection” presentation at Weston Library, University of Oxford 4 November 2022

“Q as a Source of Knowledge about John the Baptist” SBL 2022 Annual Meeting and 2022-2023 Durham Postgraduate Research Seminar

“Late Antique Texts and Earlier History: The Case of John the Baptist and Mandaean Sources” American Academy of Religion 2022 Annual Meeting Panel on *AI 2021* at American Academy of Religion 2022 Annual Meeting

“Doctor Who and Theology” Invited talk at St. John’s College, Durham University, October 2022.

“Do People Google in the 23rd Century?” Starbase Indy November 28th, 2021.

“The Past, Present, and Future of Christianity in Science Fiction,” public lecture sponsored by the Michigan Center for Early Christian Studies, April 15th, 2021.

“Can Mandaean sources be useful in the study of the historical John the Baptist?” Enoch Seminar Nangeroni conference on John the Baptist, January 2021.

“The Influence of John the Baptist on Jesus’ Teaching,” Columbia University New Testament Seminar, October 14th 2020.

“Deity, Devil, Demiurge: The Shared Origins of Monotheism, the Problem of Evil, and ‘Gnosticism’” Enoch Seminar Conference: Concepts of Evil in Second Temple Judaism and Christian Origins, June 29-July 2, 2020 (online)

“Anthropological Assumptions of John’s Baptism,” Eighth East-West Symposium of New Testament Scholars (SNTS EELC), Caraiman Monastery, Busteni, Romania, August 2019.

“Batman, Joker, & Nietzsche’s Übermensch: A Critical Response to Charles Robertson,” Batman in Popular Culture Conference, Bowling Green State University, April 2019.

“The Kobayashi Maru and Autonomous Vehicles” and “A Data-Driven Approach to Machine Freedom,” with Ankur Gupta, Starbase Indy, November 2018.

“The Mandaean Book of John as Digital Humanities Project,” with Charles Häberl, Digital Humanities section, SBL Annual Meeting November 2018.

“A Wise and Deceitful Messiah: Polemic Against Jesus in Mandaean Sources,” with Charles Häberl, Traditions of Eastern Late Antiquity section, AAR Annual Meeting November 2018.

“Gamification and the Arts in Higher Education,” with Nicholas Johnson and Steve Nyktas, Gen Con Trade Day, August 2018.

“Gamification in Higher Education” with Jason Goldsmith and Amanda Starkel, GenCon Trade Day, August 2017.

Panel Review of Urban C. von Wahlde, *Gnosticism, Docetism, and the Judaisms of the First Century: The Search for the Wider Context of the Johannine Literature and Why It Matters* at the Midwest SBL Meeting February 11th, 2017.

“Learning from Jesus’ Wife: The Role of Online Scholarship in Creating and Exposing a Forgery” in the Digital Humanities section at the SBL Annual Meeting in San Antonio, November 2016.

Panel review of *Ancient Worlds in Digital Culture* at SBL, November 2016.

“The Gospel of John as Jewish Messianism” at the Enoch Seminar Nangeroni Meeting *John the Jew* in Camaldoli, Italy, June 2016.

“Nerd Fundamentalism: What Do Space Can(n)ons Have To Do With Biblical Canons?” in the Metacriticism of Biblical Scholarship section at the SBL Annual Meeting in Atlanta, November 2015.

[“Assessing the Core Curriculum Holistically and for Specific Evidence of Cultural Competence, Civic Learning and Creativity”](#) with Elizabeth K. Mix, Nandini Ramaswamy, Margaretha Geertsema-Sligh, Donald Braid, and Amia Foston. IUPUI Assessment Institute October 26th, 2015.

“Slow Scholarship: Do Bloggers Rush in Where Jesus’ Wife Would Fear to Tread?” presented at the York Christian Apocrypha Symposium “Fakes, Fictions, Forgeries: Writing Ancient and Modern Christian Apocrypha,” York University, Toronto Canada, September 2015.

“Gnostic Survivors: the Mandaeans in their relations with Judaism, Christianity and Islam” 2015 David Noel Freedman Lecture at the University of Michigan, Thursday March 19th, 2015.

“Can University Walls Keep Out The Internet?” in the Metacriticism of Biblical Scholarship section at the SBL Annual Meeting in San Diego, November 2014.

Panelist discussing Bart Ehrman’s *How Jesus Became God* in the Extent of Theological Diversity in Earliest Christianity section at the SBL Annual Meeting in San Diego, November 2014.

“Doctor Who and Religion: A Short Trip Through 50 Years of Time and Space Travel” invited talk at the University of Mississippi, October 2nd, 2014.

“Reading a Letter Quoting a Hymn Quoting Scripture: Intertextuality and Persuasion in Philippians 2:6-11” in the Intertextuality in the New Testament section at the SBL Annual Meeting in Baltimore, November 2013.

“Mythicism and the Mainstream: The Rhetoric and Realities of Academic Freedom” in the Metacriticism of Biblical Scholarship section at the SBL Annual Meeting in Baltimore, November 2013.

“Polemics, Redaction, and History in the Mandaean Book of John: The Case of the Lightworld Visitor(s) to Jerusalem” at the ARAM Conference on the Mandaeans, July 2013, Oxford, UK.

“Revisiting the Relationship between the Mandaean Book of John and the New Testament,” Nag Hammadi and Gnosticism session at the Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting in Chicago, November 2012.

“Religion in Star Trek and Doctor Who: From a Gallifreyan God to the Enlightened Enterprise” Keynote address at the Tenth Annual Research in Religious Studies Conference, University of Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, May 5th, 2012.

“Religion in Doctor Who” paper delivered at the wildcard session Religion and Science Fiction at the American Academy of Religion annual meeting in San Francisco, November 2011.

“The Satirical Use of Christian Material in the Mandaean Book of John” paper delivered at the Aramaic section of the SBL annual meeting in San Francisco, November 2011.

“The Reception of Lukan Infancy Traditions in the Mandaean Book of John” paper delivered to the Nag Hammadi and Gnosticism section at the International Society of Biblical Literature conference in London, England, July 7th, 2011.

“The Blogging Revolution: New Technologies and their Impact on How we do Scholarship” invited paper delivered in the Blogger and Online Publication session at the Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting in Atlanta, November 22nd, 2010.
 [Online at <https://www.patheos.com/blogs/religionprof/2010/11/the-blogging-revolution-new-technologies-and-their-impact-on-how-we-do-scholarship.html>; podcast available online at <http://targuman.org/blog/2010/11/28/podcast-james-mcgrath-sbl-2010-blogger-online-publication/>]

“Intertextuality without an Intertext? Musings on Matthew and Method” in the Intertextuality in the New Testament consultation at the Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting in Atlanta, November 22nd, 2010.

“On Hearing (Rather Than Reading) Intertextual Echoes: Methodological Considerations Related to Aurality, Orality, and Intertextuality” read at the Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting in New Orleans, November 22nd, 2009.

“Reading the Story of Miriai on Two Levels: Evidence from Mandaean Anti-Jewish Polemic about the Origins and Setting of Early Mandaeism” read at the ARAM Society conference on the Mandaeans, Oriental Institute, Oxford, UK July 2009.

“Written Islands in an Oral Stream” presented at the Gospels section of the Midwest Society of Biblical Literature Meeting in Bourbonnais, Illinois, February 14th, 2009.

“Mark’s Missing Ending: Clues from the Gospel of John and the Gospel of Peter”, read in the Synoptic Gospels section at the SBL National Meeting in Boston, November 2008.

“Mandaean Polemic against Jews and Christians as Evidence about the Origins and Setting of Early Mandaism”, read in the Jewish Christianity/Christian Judaism section at the SBL National Meeting in Boston, November 2008.

“Mark’s Missing Ending: Clues from the Gospel of John and the Gospel of Peter”, paper read at the Midwest Society of Biblical Literature Meeting in Bourbonnais, Illinois, February 15-17, 2008.

Chaired panel discussion (by invitation) on Ritva Williams' book *Stewards, Prophets, Keepers of the Word* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 2006) at the Midwest Society of Biblical Literature Meeting in Bourbonnais, IL, February 15-17, 2008.

“Artificial Minds and Human Religions: An illustration of the diversity of possible intersections between religious thought and practice and technological advances”, paper read at Transdisciplinary Approaches of the Dialogue between Science, Art and Religion in the Europe of Tomorrow, Sibiu, Romania, September 2007.

“Jesus as ‘Prophet’ and ‘False Prophet’”, paper read at the Midwest Society of Biblical Literature Meeting in Bourbonnais, Illinois, February 16-18, 2007.

“History and Fiction in the Acts of Thomas: The State of the Question”, paper read at the Eastern Great Lakes Biblical Society conference in Erie, PA, on March 24th, 2006.

““Destroy This Temple”: Issues of History in John 2”, paper presented to the John, Jesus and History section of the 2005 SBL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

“Was Jesus Illegitimate? The Evidence of His Social Interactions”, paper presented to the Historical Jesus section of the 2005 SBL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

“Worship and Monotheism in the Book of Revelation”, SBL Midwest Regional Meeting, Deerfield, IL, February 19th, 2005.

“Worship and the Question of Jewish Polytheism in the Hellenistic Age”, paper presented to the Hellenistic Judaism section of the 2003 SBL Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

“Rebuilding the Temple: Jesus’ Timetable for the Dawn of a New Age?”, paper presented to the Historical Jesus section of the 2003 SBL Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

“Scientific Cosmology and Christianity: Models for their Interaction”, paper read on Thursday, March 27th, 2003 at the “Scientific Cosmology and Christianity” Science Symposium at Wheaton College.

“The Desert of the Real: Christianity, Buddhism and Baudrillard in The Matrix and Popular Culture”, paper read at the conference *Visions of Humanity in Cyberspace, Cyberspace and Science Fiction* (Monday 11th August - Wednesday 13th August 2003, Prague, Czech Republic). [<http://www.interdisciplinary.net/ati/Visions/V1/mcgrath%20paper.pdf>]

“Two Powers’ and Early Jewish and Christian Monotheism”, paper read on Saturday, November 17th, 2001 to the Early Jewish and Christian Mysticism Group at the SBL Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado.

“John: Defender and Developer of the Faith. A Distinctive Gospel and its Distinctive Context”, academic paper read at American Baptist Seminary of the West, Berkeley, CA, on October 30th, 2001.

“John, Jesus and ‘the Jews’. A distinctive Gospel in its distinctive context”, lecture given on March 16th, 2001 at Heythrop College, University of London.

“Extraterestrii si Evanghelicii în Dialog. Implicațiile teologice ale existenței vietii inteligente extraterestre” [“Evangelicals and Extraterrestrials in Dialogue.

Theological Implications of the Existence of Intelligent Extraterrestrial Life"], paper read at the theological seminar of the Areopagus Center, Timisoara, Romania, November 1st, 2000.

“Reformati si întotdeauna reformându-se. O regândire a sensului învătăturii pauline și a semnificării sale pentru contextul evanghelic românesc” [“Reformed and Ever Being Reformed. The New Perspective on Paul and its Implications for Romanian Evangelicalism”], public lecture given at the Areopagus Center, Timisoara, Romania, November 1st, 2000.

“Temelia Escatologica a Soteriologiei Pauline” [“The Eschatological Foundation of Pauline Soteriology”], paper presented March 1st, 2000 at the 7th annual Academic Conference, Emanuel University, March 31st – April 1st, 2000.

“Is John’s Christology Monotheist?”, paper presented at the Staff Theological Research Seminar, Emanuel Bible Institute, November 20th, 1998.

“Are Christians Monotheists? The Answer of St. John’s Gospel” Lecture given at the North of England Institute for Christian Education Sixth Form Study Day, University of Durham, March 27th, 1998.

“John’s Apologetic Use of Ps. 82:6 and the Development of Johannine Christology,” read at the Durham Postgraduate New Testament Seminar, February 16th, 1998.

“Christology on Two Fronts: A New Testament Model for ‘Doing’ Christology in a Pluralistic Context,” read on November 20th, 1997 at the conference *The Myriad Christ: Plurality and the Quest for Unity in Contemporary Christology*, Catholic University of Leuven, November 18th-21st, 1997.

“Change in Christology: New Testament Models and the Contemporary Task,” read at the Durham Postgraduate New Testament Seminar, May 13th, 1996.

“Going Up and Coming Down in Johannine Apologetic,” presented to the Johannine Literature Seminar on September 14th, 1996, at the *British New Testament Conference*, University of Aberdeen, September 12th-14th, 1996.

“An Introduction to Wayne A. Meeks’ ‘A Hermeneutic of Social Embodiment,’” read at the Durham Postgraduate Contemporary Theology Seminar, February 22nd, 1996.

Other publications

Opinion, Popular Articles, and Letters

““This tiny minority of Iraqis follows an ancient Gnostic religion – and there’s a chance they could be your neighbors too” *The Conversation* June 21, 2021 <https://theconversation.com/this-tiny-minority-of-iraqis-follows-an-ancient-gnostic-religion-and-there-s-a-chance-they-could-be-your-neighbors-too-160838>

“When My Son Discovered RateMyProfessors.com” *Inside Higher Ed* Jun 15th, 2015 <https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2015/06/15/essay-about-professor-who-learns-his-son-has-discovered-ratemyprofessorscom>

“My View: Not-so-nice list puts Christians in ‘holy huddle’” *Indianapolis Star* December 3rd, 2012 <http://blogs.indystar.com/letters/2012/12/03/my-view-3/>

“My View: Inform Yourself About Creation Theories” *Indianapolis Star* January 20th, 2012 <http://blogs.indystar.com/letters/2012/01/20/my-view-inform-yourself-about-creation-theories/>

Several op-eds in *The Bible and Interpretation* in 2011

“God, the Devil, and TV’s ‘Lost’” *USA Today* May 17th, 2010 http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2010-05-17-column17_ST1_N.htm

“Translating the Bible is no joke. But what’s in a political ‘translation?’” *Christian Science Monitor* December 7th, 2009 <http://www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/Opinion/2009/1207/p09s04-coop.html>

“Entuziasmul fără cunoștiințe este o problemă serioasă pentru religie”, interview published in Cătălin Mosoia, *În dialog cu...despre știință și religie* (Bucharest: Curtea Veche, 2007) 129-139.

“Same rules”, Letter to the Editor, *NUVO* 10/10/2007
http://www.nuovo.net/articles/same_rules/

“Professor Questions Evolution Coverage”, *The Butler Collegian* Vol.120 Issue 23 (Wednesday, April 11th, 2007)

“Description of Islam Painted Just One Side”, Letter to the Editor, *Indianapolis Star*, 7/4/04 <http://www.indystar.com/articles/5/159797-6815-022.html>

“Authentic Power and Gentleness: A Meeting With Peteris Vasks”, <http://www.lmic.lv/>

“Bible cannot determine homosexual marriage laws”, *The Butler Collegian* Vol.118 Issue 14 (Wednesday, January 21st, 2004)
<http://dawgnet.butler.edu/archive/040116/pictures/040116.pdf>

Fiction

“Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis.” Forthcoming in *42 Stories Anthology*. Edited by Bertram Allan Mullin.

“In Earth’s Backyard.” *Alien Dimensions* 25 (October 2023)
 Also to be included in *Touching the Face of the Cosmos Volume 2*. Edited by Paul Levinson and Michael Waltemathe. Fordham University Press.

Four flash fiction stories in *The Shadow of the Gallifreyan* edited by Kara Dennison and Paul Driscoll. Altrix Books, 2023.

“New Members.” *Hero of a Different Stripe*. Edited by Joe Monson and Jaleta Clegg. Hemelein Publications/LTUE Press, 2023.

“Let There Be Errors,” *Ab Terra Flash Fiction* 2. <http://bmpvoices.com/issue-3-robots/>

“We Three Spies of Parthia Are,” *AcademFic* 1 (2021) 73-94.
<https://press.palni.org/ojs/index.php/academfic/article/view/659>

“Biblical Literalism in the New Jerusalem” in *Touching the Face of the Cosmos: On the Intersection of Space Travel and Religion*, ed. Paul Levinson and Michael Waltemathe. Fordham University Press, 2016, pp.161-164.

Others included in *Theology and Science Fiction* (listed above).

External Grants and Fellowships

2023 Barker Fellowship, Durham Residential Research Library, Durham University (June)

2023 Newell Visiting Scholar, Georgia College and State University (Spring)

2022 Visiting Fellow, Magdalen College, University of Oxford (Michaelmas term)

2022 Sassoon Fellow, Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford (October)

2020-2021 [PALSave Open Educator Award](#)

2020 PALNI Textbook Creation Grant

2012 NEH Scholarly Editions follow-up grant to continue project below and produce a commentary on the Mandaean Book of John.

2010 NEH Scholarly Editions Grant to produce a critical edition and English translation of the Mandaean Book of John.

University Awards

2021 LAS Faculty Award for Scholarship

Professional Service

2015- SBL Digital Humanities steering committee

2020- AAR Traditions of Eastern Late Antiquity steering committee
2012-2020 AAR Traditions of Eastern Late Antiquity co-chair
2013-2015 SBL Blogger and Online Publication section chair
2009-2012 SBL Intertextuality and the New Testament steering committee

University Administrative Roles and Committee Service

Faculty Senate senator (Fall 2021-Spring 2022)
Faculty Director of the Core Curriculum (March 2017-June 2020)
Director, Core Curriculum Areas of Inquiry (2016-2017)
Area 1 Core Curriculum Committee Chair (member 2010-2016, chair 2013-2016)
BAC committee (member 2010-2015, chair 2014-2015)
Emerging Technology Committee (2010-2013)
eLearning advisory committee (2012-2013)
STS advisory committee (continuous)
LAS online teaching committee (Spring 2013)
LAS Professional Standard Committee (2010-2012)
Classics search committee (2012-2013)
Global Initiatives Grants Review Committee (2012)
Honors Board (2003-2008)
University Curriculum Committee (2005-2007)
LAS Curriculum Committee (2005-2008)

Membership in Professional Societies:

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas | 2011 – present |
| American Academy of Religion | 2010 – present |
| American Oriental Society | 2010 – present |
| Society of Biblical Literature | 1998 – present |