

**MICHAIL KITSOS**

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**EDUCATION**

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- August 2020     **Ph.D. History of Judaism and Christianity in Late Antiquity**  
Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan  
Thesis Title: “Speaking as the Other: Late Ancient Jewish and Christian Multivocal Texts and the Creation of Religious Legitimacy.”  
Dissertation Advisors: Rafael Rachel Neis and Ellen Muehlberger
- April 2020     **Graduate Certificate, Judaic Studies**  
Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan – Ann Arbor
- April 2020     **Master of Arts, Near Eastern Studies**  
University of Michigan – Ann Arbor
- May 2012     **Master of Arts, Jewish Studies**  
Gratz College, Melrose Park, PA
- June 2009     **Master of Arts, Biblical Archaeology**  
Department of Theology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece
- May 2006     **Graduate Certificate, Hellenic Paleography**  
Center for History and Paleography, National Bank of Greece Cultural Foundation  
Athens, Greece
- July 2003     **Bachelor of Arts, Theology**  
Department of Theology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

**ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC TRAINING**

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- 2021            Classical Armenian – Grabar I (Beginner) & Classical Armenian – Grabar II (Intermediate-Advanced Classical Armenian). ASPIRANTUM: Armenian School of Languages and Cultures, Yerevan, Armenia
- 2016            Syriac I (Introduction to Syriac) & Syriac II (Intermediate-Advanced Syriac). Beth Mardutho: The Syriac Institute, Piscataway, New Jersey

**ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

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- 2021 – 2022     Igor Kaplan Postdoctoral Fellow in Christian-Jewish Relations  
Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies and Toronto School of Theology,  
University of Toronto
- 2020 – 2021     Postdoctoral Research Assistant, Jewish Aramaic and Classical Syriac  
Department of History, University of Michigan – Ann Arbor

2019 – 2021      Research Fellow, Laboratory for the Management of Greek and Latin Digital Resources, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Books

Kitsos, Michail. *In Jews' and Christians' Words: Impersonation and Narratives of Legitimacy in Late Antique and Middle Byzantine Mediterranean*. In progress.

Kitsos, Michail and Andrew Jacobs. *Dialogica Polymorpha Antijudaica (Or Dialogus Papisci et Philonis)*. Critical Edition with a Facing English Translation, Commentary, and Notes. In progress.

Kitsos, Michail. *Η Λειτουργική Χρήση της Menorah: Βιβλική – Μεταβιβλική Θεώρηση* (The Liturgical Use of the Menorah: Biblical and Post-Biblical Approach). Athens: Typis Humanities Publishing House, 2010. (in Greek)

### Peer Reviewed Journal Articles and Chapters

Kitsos, Michail. "Fabricating Internal Dissent in Medieval Anti-Jewish Dialogues: Jews and their Biblical Kin in Conflict." (Under Review).

Kitsos, Michail. "Foiling as a Way to Read Rabbinic Narratives of Encounters." (Under Review).

Kitsos, Michail. "Rabbinic Foil Narratives to Other Stories: Toward a New Reading of Parodies." (Under Review).

Kitsos, Michail. "Reading the Adversus Iudaeos Dialogues Through Narratology: Creating in Writing a Culture of Jewish-Christian Disputations in Late Antiquity." *Das Mittelalter* 18 (Spring 2022): 107-122.

Kitsos, Michail. "Byzantine Christian Claims of Religious Legitimacy: The Jew as the Dissident Foil in the Adversus Iudaeos Dialogues in Discussions on Icons." Pages 161-77 in *Dissidence and Persecution in Early and Middle Byzantium*, edited by Danijel Džino and Ryan W. Stickler. Leiden: Brill, 2021.

Kitsos, Michail. "Examples of Intertextuality in Ecclesiastes Rabbah: Its Use of the Book of Psalms and Its Association with Ecclesiastes and the New Testament." Pages 268-82 in *Reading Ecclesiastes Intertextually*, edited by Katharine Dell and Will Kynes. London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2014.

### Academic Blogs

Kitsos, Michail. "In Others' Words: Dialogues and Legitimation in Ancient Jewish and Christian Multivocal Texts." *Ancient Jew Review*. February 23, 2021.

<https://www.ancientjewreview.com/articles?category=Articles>

### Book Reviews

Kitsos, Michail. Review of Mokhtarian, Jason Sion. *Medicine in the Talmud: Natural and Supernatural Therapies between Magic and Science*. Oakland: University of California Press, 2022. (Religious Studies Review, 2023)

Kitsos, Michail. Review of Rubinstein, Jeffrey L., ed. *Studies on Rabbinic Narratives, Volume One*. Brown Judaic Studies 367. Providence: Brown Judaic Studies, 2021. (Religious Studies Review, 2023)

Kitsos, Michail. Review of Ehud, Krinis, Nabih Bashir, Sara Offenberg, and Shalom Sadik, eds. *Polemical and Exegetical Polarities in Medieval Jewish Cultures: Studies in Honour of Daniel J. Lasker*. Studia Judaica, 113. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2021. (Religious Studies Review, 2023)

Kitsos, Michail. Review of Jordan, Robert H. and Rosemary Morris, eds. and trans. *The Life and Death of Theodore of Stoudios*. Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library 70. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2021. (Bryn Mawr Classical Review, 2022)

Kitsos, Michail. Review of Spielman, Loren R. *Jews and Entertainment in the Ancient World*. Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism 181. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2020. (Religious Studies Review, 2022)

Kitsos, Michail. Review of Gribetz, Sarit Kattan. *Time and Difference in Rabbinic Judaism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2020. (Religious Studies Review, 2022)

Kitsos, Michail. Review of Barbu, Daniel and Yaakov Deutsch, eds. *Toledot Yeshu in Context: The Jewish "Life of Jesus" in Ancient, Medieval, and Modern History*. Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism 182. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2020. (Religious Studies Review, 2022)

Kitsos, Michail. Review of Kaldellis, Anthony and Ioannis Polemis, eds., trans. *Saints of Ninth- and Tenth-Century Greece*. Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library 54. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2019. (The Medieval Review, 2021)

Kitsos, Michail. Review of Bar-Asher Siegal, Michal. *Jewish-Christian Dialogues on Scripture in Late Antiquity: Heretic Narratives of the Babylonian Talmud*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019. (Religious Studies Review, 2021).

Kitsos, Michail. Review of Smith, Eric C. *Jewish Glass and Christian Stone: A Materialist Mapping of the "Parting of the Ways."* Routledge Studies in the early Christian world. New York: Routledge, 2017. (Bryn Mawr Classical Review, 2019)

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## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

### University of Michigan

2021	Michael S. Bernstein Dissertation Award in Judaic Studies, Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies
2019 – 2020	Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship (Dissertation completion fellowship)
2020	Frankel Stanley Fellowship
2020	Middle East Studies Conference Travel Grant
2019	Rackham Humanities Research Fellowship
2019	Frankel Stanley Fellowship
2019	Rackham Conference Travel Grant
2019	Middle East Studies Conference Travel Grant
2018	George F. and Celeste Hourani Dissertation Writing Fellowship
2018	Middle East Studies Conference Travel Grant
2018	Rackham One-Term Dissertation Fellowship
2018	Middle East Studies Conference Travel Grant

2017	Michigan Center for Early Christian Studies Award
2017	Hourani Memorial Award
2017	Middle East Studies Conference Travel Grant
2017	Rackham Conference Travel Grant
2016	Middle East Studies Conference Travel Grant
2016	Rackham Conference Travel Grant
2016	Stanley Frankel Summer Fellowship
2016	Hourani Memorial Award
2016	Middle East Studies Conference Travel Grant
2016	Rackham Conference Travel Grant
2016	Middle East Studies Conference Travel Grant
2016	Rackham International Student Fellowship
2015	Middle East Studies Conference Travel Grant
2015	Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant
2015	Middle East Studies Conference Travel Grant
2015	Hourani Memorial Award
2015	Middle East Studies Conference Travel Grant
2014	Middle East Studies Conference Travel Grant
2014	Hourani Memorial Award
2014	Michigan Center for Early Christian Studies Award
2014	Middle East Studies Fellowship
2013	Middle East Studies Fellowship

#### **Gratz College, Melrose Park, PA**

2012	Nettie R. Ginsburg and Nathaniel I.S. Goldman Prize
2011 – 2012	Gratz College Scholarship
2010 – 2012	Florence Witonsky Scholarship
2010 – 2011	Leon Fisher Scholarship
2010 – 2011	Seymour M. Shore Scholarship
2010 – 2011	Gratz College Scholarship
2011	Prize in Rabbinics
2011	Prize in Liturgy
2010	Prize in Rabbinics

#### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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“The Synagogue as a Female Deviant: Slut-Shaming and Other Female-Stigmatization.” Paper to be presented at the Society of Biblical Literature, November 2023.

“Christian Imagination of Jews as Criminals and Criminalization of Jews.” Paper to be presented at the 58<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 2023.

“Demonizing the Jew in Byzantine Apocalyptic Works.” Paper presented at the *Demons Good and Bad* International Conference, at Trinity College, Dublin, October 2022.

“Between Utopia and Reality: The Jews in Byzantine Hagiographies from the Tenth and Eleventh Centuries CE.” Paper presented at the 24<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Byzantine Studies, August 2022.

“*Adversus Iudaeos* Dialogues in Old Armenian. A Case of a Jewish Threat?” Paper presented at the 57<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 2022.

“Disseminating Anti-Jewish Hatred in Medieval Theater: The Jews in Byzantine Tragedy and the Case of the *Christos Paschōn*.” Paper presented at the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, March 2022.

“Rabbinic and Post-Rabbinic Views on Mary in the Midst of a Christian Theological Environment.” Paper presented at The Virgin Beyond Borders International Conference, March 2022.

“Narratives of Violence: Anti-Jewish Pogroms in Late Antiquity and the Middle Byzantine Period.” Paper presented at the Association for Jewish Studies, December 2021.

“Polarizing the Female Breast and Breastfeeding: Gendered Perceptions of Babylonian Rabbis and Christian Authors in the Late Antique and Middle Byzantine Periods.” Paper presented at the Motherhood and Breastfeeding in Antiquity and Byzantium International Conference, November 2021.

“Christian Claims of a Religious Legitimacy: Christian Dialogical Discussions on Icons and Idols in the *Adversus Iudaeos* Dialogues.” Paper presented at the North American Patristics Society, May 2021.

“The Athigganoi as the ‘Supervillain’ in the Byzantine Empire: Crossing Identities between Jews and ‘Heretical’ Christians.” Paper presented at the 56<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 2021.

“A Human’s Reaction to Disaster: Personal Suffering in Byzantine Liturgical Poetry on Job.” Paper presented at the Association for Jewish Studies, December 2020.

“Creating Critical Editions with the Aid of Digital Humanities: Presenting the Case of three *Adversus Iudaeos* Dialogues Written on the eve of the Fall of the Eastern Byzantine Empire.” Paper invited to be presented at an International Conference- Humanities in the Digital Era, Athens, Greece (Paper accepted to be presented – Conference was canceled due to COVID-19).

“The Christian Christ and the Rabbinic Messiah: Jewish and Christian discussions on the Divinity of Jesus.” Paper presented at the American Society for Church History Conference, January 2020.

“Reading the *Adversus Iudaeos* Dialogues Through Narratology: Retrieving a Culture of Jewish-Christian Disputation in Late Antiquity.” Paper presented at the conference on *Narratology for Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages*, in Innsbruck, Austria, November 2019.

“A Medieval Religion of Iconolatriy: The Epistemology of the Materialization of the Contact with the Divine in the Christian Discussions on Icons and Idols in the *Adversus Iudaeos* Dialogues.” Paper presented at the 58<sup>th</sup> Midwest Medieval History Conference, Notre Dame, South Bend, IN, September 2019.

“*Disceptatio Christiani et Saraceni*: Dialogical Format and Theology as Signs of Contact.” Paper presented at the International Medieval Congress, Leeds, UK, July 2017.

“Perceptions of ‘Otherness’ at the Eastern Borders of the Roman Empire: Syriac Multivocal Literature on the Jews.” Paper presented at the North American Patristics Society, Chicago, IL, May 2017.

“Τίνα με Λέγουσιν οἱ Ἄνθρωποι εἶναι;” Wearing a Philosopher’s Cloak: Was Justin a Christian?” Paper presented at the North American Patristics Society, Chicago, IL., May 2016.

“Galileans, Nazarenes and Jewish Christians in the works of Emperor Julian, Epiphanius of Salamis, and John Chrysostom: Development and Discontinuity.” Paper presented at the Near Eastern Studies Graduate Colloquium, University of Michigan, February 2015.

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#### ORGANIZATION OF CONFERENCES AND SESSIONS

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“Armenian Studies: Literature and Art I & II.” Session organizer for the 57<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 2022.

“Jewish – Christian Relations and Christian Anti-Jewish Polemics in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages.” Conference organizer at the University of Toronto, May 2022.

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#### INVITED TALKS AND PUBLIC LECTURES

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“In Others’ Words: Impersonation and Legitimation in Jewish and Christian Texts from Late Antique and the Middle Byzantine Periods.” Public lecture at the Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies and the Toronto School of Theology, University of Toronto, February 2022.

“It Happened Earlier Than You Think: The Jewish-Christian Disputations in Late Antiquity.” Invited talk at the Medieval Lunch Series, Medieval and Early Modern Studies, University of Michigan, November 2017.

“Immateriality of Objects in Material Texts: The Case of the Maccabean Shrine.” Invited talk at the Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, University of Michigan, January 2015.

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#### TEACHING

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*Adversus Iudaeos Dialogues: Christian-Jewish Relations and Rivalries from Late Antiquity to the Early Middle Ages (CJS391H1-FLEC0101)*, Instructor of the class. Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies. University of Toronto (Fall Semester, 2021).

*What is Judaism? (NEAREAST 276)*, Teaching Assistant for Julian Levinson. Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. University of Michigan (Fall Semester, 2017; Fall Semester 2016)

*Jews and Christians in the Ancient World: Relations and Rivalries (NEAREAST 291)*, Instructor of the class. Department of Near Eastern Studies. University of Michigan (Summer Semester, 2017)

*Introduction to Islam (NEAREAST 276)*, Teaching Assistant for Alexander Knysh. Department of Near Eastern Studies. University of Michigan (Winter Semester, 2017)

*Introduction to the New Testament (NEAREAST 236)*, Teaching Assistant for Gabriele Boccaccini. Department of Near Eastern Studies. University of Michigan (Winter Semester, 2016; Winter Semester, 2015)

*The Historical Jesus in Christianity, Judaism, and Islam (NEAREAST 238)*, Teaching Assistant for Gabriele Boccaccini. Department of Near Eastern Studies. University of Michigan (Fall Semester, 2015)

*The Land of Israel and Palestine Through the Ages (HJCS 277)*, Teaching Assistant for Yaron Eliav. Department of Near Eastern Studies. University of Michigan (Fall Semester, 2014)

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#### **GRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

2015	Graduate Research Assistant to Associate Professor Rachel Rafael Neis University of Michigan
2014	Graduate Research Assistant to Associate Professor Yaron Eliav University of Michigan
2011 – 2012	Research and Teaching Assistant to Professor Ruth Sandberg Gratz College

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#### **SERVICE**

##### **Disciplinary Service**

*Religious Studies Review* Journal

Role: Book Reviewer, 2020 – Present

Student Advisory Board North American Patristics Society (NAPS)

Role: Communications/Social Media Officer, 2018 – 2020.

Syriac Electronic Data Research Archive (SEDRA), Beth Mardutho: The Syriac Institute

Role: Lexicographer, 2017 – 2018

##### **Departmental Service**

Teaching Innovations Group

Department of Middle East Studies, University of Michigan

Role: Committee Member, 2018 – 2020

“How to Publish in Journals”

Graduate Student Workshop, Department of Middle East Studies, University of Michigan

Role: Event Organizer, April 2018

“How to Diversify the Syllabus to Include Underrepresented Scholars”

Graduate Student Workshop, Department of Middle East Studies, University of Michigan

Role: Event Organizer, April 2018

“How to Give a Job Talk”

Graduate Student Workshop, Department of Middle East Studies, University of Michigan

Role: Event Organizer, March 2018

“How to Write a Grant Proposal”

Graduate Student Workshop, Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan

Role: Event Organizer, November 2017

Graduate Student Representative, 2017 – 2018  
Department of Middle East Studies, University of Michigan

### **University Service**

Student Advisory Board, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
University of Michigan  
Role: Board Member, 2018 – 2020

Rackham Professional Development Leadership Program (RPDL)  
Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan  
Role: Program Leader, 2018 – 2020

“Being a Foreign Student in a Foreign Land: Exploring the Academic Lives of International Students”  
DEI discussion panel, RPDL, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan  
Role: Event Organizer, April 2019

DEI Conversations: “Social Justice Activism”  
RPDL, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan  
Role: Event Organizer, March 2019

DEI Conversations: “Intersectionality”  
RPDL, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan  
Role: Event Organizer, February 2019

DEI Conversations: “International Students”  
RPDL, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan  
Role: Event Organizer, January 2019

Graduate Rackham International (GRIN)  
Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan  
Role: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I) Co-chair, 2018 – 2019

International Graduate Student Instructors Grievance Committee  
Graduate Employees’ Organization (GEO), University of Michigan  
Role: Committee Member, 2017 – 2018

Certificate in Jewish-Christian Studies Program  
Gratz College  
Role: Program Co-Creator and Assistant Director, 2012 – 2013

Office of Enrollment Management  
Gratz College  
Role: Assistant to the Director, Summer 2011

Office of Enrollment Management  
Gratz College  
Role: Assistant to the Interim Coordinator, February – June 2011



**ANCIENT LANGUAGES**

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Greek – Classical, Hellenistic (Koinē), Ecclesiastical, Medieval  
Latin – Classical, Ecclesiastical  
Hebrew – Biblical, Rabbinic  
Aramaic – Palestinian, Babylonian  
Syriac  
Coptic  
Old Armenian (Grabar)

**MODERN LANGUAGES**

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English – Fluent  
Modern Greek – Native Speaker  
French – Conversational and reading  
Modern Hebrew – Conversational and reading  
German – Reading

<b>PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS</b>
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Society of Biblical Literature (SBL)  
Association for Jewish Studies (AJS)  
North American Patristics Society (NAPS)  
Byzantine Studies Association of North America (BSANA)  
The Medieval Academy of America (MAA)  
American Society of Church History (ASCH)  
American Historical Association (AHA)  
Association of Ancient Historians (AAH)  
Society of Classical Studies (SCS)