

JOHN DAVID PENNIMAN

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

May 2021 – Present	<i>Associate Professor of Religious Studies</i> , Bucknell University <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current Department Chair, fall 2023-• Bucknell NEH Chair in the Humanities, 2021-24• Project Director, NEH Initiatives Grant in Health Humanities, 2022-25• Interim Director of the Bucknell Humanities Center, AY 2022-23
August 2021 – May 2022	<i>National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow</i> , American School of Classical Studies at Athens
June 2015 – April 2021	<i>Assistant Professor of Religious Studies</i> , Bucknell University

EDUCATION

Ph.D., 2015	Christianity in Antiquity, Department of Theology, Fordham University
M.Phil., 2012	History of Christianity, Department of Theology, Fordham University
M.T.S., 2007	Historical Studies, Candler School of Theology, Emory University
B.A., 2005	Religious Studies, Elon University

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Early Christianity; History of Late Antiquity; Ancient Education; Ancient Medicine and Pharmacology; Greek and Roman Religion; History of Biblical Interpretation; Post-structural Philosophy; Historiography; Theories of Religion; Ritual Studies; Gender, Sexuality, and Sexual Difference in the History of Christianity; Food Studies

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Raised on Christian Milk: Food and the Formation of the Soul in Early Christianity. Yale University Press, 2017.

Reviews: *Church Times* (February 2018); *Ancient Jew Review* (May 2018); *Anglican Episcopal History* (September 2018); *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* (January 2019); *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (August 2019); *Review of Biblical Literature* (August 2019); *Journal of Orthodox Christian Studies* (Fall 2019); *Reading Religion* (September 2020); *Church History* (October 2020); *Material Religion* (November 2020)

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Blended with the Savior: Gregory of Nyssa’s Eucharistic Pharmacology in the *Catechetical Oration*,” *Studies in Late Antiquity* 2.4 (2018): 512-541.

“Fed to Perfection: Mother’s Milk, Roman Family Values, and the Transformation of the Soul in Gregory of Nyssa,” *Church History* 84.3 (Fall 2015): 495-530.

“‘The Health-Giving Cup’: Cyprian’s *Ep.* 63 and the Medicinal Power of Eucharistic Wine,” *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 23.2 (August 2015): 189-211.

Essays in Edited Volumes

“The Symptomatic Self: Pathography and Community in Late Roman Letters,” *forthcoming* in the Routledge volume *Being (Made) Sick and Getting Better* (eds. Colleen Shantz and Paul Robertson)

Encyclopedia/Dictionary Entries

“George Steiner,” *Oxford Guide to the Historical Reception of Augustine*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013), 1773-75.

Book Reviews

Jonathan L. Zeicher, *Spiritual Direction as a Medical Art in Early Christian Monasticism* in *Review of Biblical Literature* (forthcoming)

Virginia Burrus, *Earthquakes and Gardens: St. Hilarion’s Cyprus* in *Studies in Late Antiquity* (forthcoming)

Helen Rhee, *Illness, Pain, and Health Care in Early Christianity* in *H-Net* (forthcoming)

“Feeding that Infinite Abyss Within.” On Alexandra Kleeman’s *You Too Can Have a Body Like Mine* in *Marginalia Review of Books* (August 2016): <http://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/feeding-infinite-abyss-within-john-david-penniman/>

“How Gay were the Early Christians; or, The Perils of Hyperbole in Historiography.” On Douglas Boin’s *Coming Out Christian in the Roman World: How the Followers of Jesus Made a Place in Caesar’s Empire* in *Marginalia Review of Books* (March 2015): <http://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/how-gay-were-the-early-christians-or-the-perils-of-hyperbole-in-historiography-by-john-david-penniman/>

Virginia Burrus, Mark Jordan, and Karmen MacKendrick, *Seducing Augustine: Bodies, Desires, Confessions* in *Union Seminary Quarterly Review* 64:3 & 4 (2012).

Public Writing and Interviews

Interview with Yahoo! News for story “All the times Pope Francis has been a breastfeeding cheerleader” (January 9, 2018): <https://sg.news.yahoo.com/times-pope-francis-breastfeeding-cheerleader-205808782.html>

Interview with *Fordham Magazine* for story “In Ancient Times, Food and Milk Formed the Soul” (October 2017): <https://news.fordham.edu/fordham-magazine/ancient-times-food-milk-formed-soul/>

Book Summary and Excerpt of *Raised on Christian Milk* in *The Revealer: A Review of Religion & Media* (July 2017): <https://wp.nyu.edu/therevealer/2017/07/25/excerpt-raised-on-christian-milk-food-and-the-formation-of-the-soul-in-early-christianity/>

Interview with Candida Moss for her article “How Christianity Sends Mixed Messages on Breast-Feeding” in *The Daily Beast* (December 2016): <https://www.thedailybeast.com/how-christianity-sends-mixed-messages-on-breast-feeding>

“Hell Houses and the Terror of the Gospel: A Conversation between Kelly J. Baker and John David Penniman,” in *Sacred Matters: Religious Currents in Culture* (December 2016): <https://sacredmattersmagazine.com/hell-houses-and-the-terror-of-the-gospel-a-conversation>

In Progress

The Hands of God: Drugs and Medicine in Early Christian Practice (current book manuscript)

“The Symptomatic Self: Pathography and Community in Late Roman Letters” (in preparation for edited volume)

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Invited Lectures

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| November 2022 | “Rendering the Body in Pain: Pathography in Late Ancient Letters,” lecture sponsored by the Center for Hellenic Studies at UC San Diego |
| October 2022 | “Rendering the Body in Pain: Pathography and Late Ancient Letter Writing,” <i>Corpora et Cultura: The Body and Cultural Production in the Ancient Mediterranean</i> , a symposium hosted by the Classics Department at the University of Cincinnati |
| April 2022 | “The Residue of Eden: Myth and Medicine in Early Christian Anointing Practices,” The Center for the Study of Christian Origins at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland |
| March 2022 | “The Residue of Eden: Myth and Medicine in Early Christian Anointing Practices,” <i>Byzantine Dialogues from the Gennadius</i> , American School of Classical Studies at Athens |
| October 2019 | “Medicalizing Salvation: Pathography and Drug Lore in Early Christian Ritual,” Graduate Colloquium at the University of Pennsylvania Department of Religious Studies |
| March 2018 | “Ritual Remedies: Drugs and Medicine in Early Christianity,” Jerry Jackson Lecture in the Humanities at Western Carolina University, invited by the Department of Philosophy and Religion |
| December 2017 | “Raised on Christian Milk,” book discussion in the doctoral seminar “The Self in Early Christianity” taught by Benjamin Dunning at Fordham University’s Department of Theology |
| November 2017 | “Early Christian Ritual and the Making of an Ancient Drug Culture,” public lecture hosted by the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Oklahoma |

- July 2016 “The Drug of Immortality: Early Christian Ritual as a Medical Event,” lecture in the summer seminar for graduate students at the Department of Religion at La Salle University
- March 2014 “Water, Bread, and Wine: The Strange Histories of Baptism and Eucharist,” lecture in the adult education program at the First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich, CT
- March 2011 “The Just-War Tradition in Christian Thought,” lecture in the adult education program at The Brick Presbyterian Church, New York City

Conference Presentations & Panels

- June & July 2023 “Perfume Among the Perishing: A (Psycho)Pharmacological Approach to Early Christian Incense Use,” European Academy of Religion: St. Andrews, Scotland and the Leeds International Medieval Congress: Leeds, England.
- November 2022 “One Infirmary after Another: Symptom and Self in Early Christian Letters,” Healthcare and Disability in the Ancient World section of the Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting: Denver, CO
- November 2019 “Paradise through Pharmacy: Experimenting with Drugs in Late Antiquity,” in “Experiments & Experimentation in Late Antiquity” panel for Religious World of Late Antiquity section of the Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting: San Diego, CA
- Respondent to works-in-progress session of Healthcare and Disability in the Ancient World Section of the Society of Biblical Literature
- May 2017 “The Coarse Milk of Marriage: 1 Corinthians 3 and the Ascetic Essence of Food,” The North American Patristics Society annual meeting; Chicago, IL
- November 2016 “Rescued from this Body of Death: Early Christian Ritual as Applied Pharmacology,” presented at the Models of Piety working group of the American Academy Religion/Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting: San Antonio, TX
- May 2016 “St. Gregory and the Broken Bones: Eucharist as Bodily Remedy in the *Catechetical Oration*,” The North American Patristics Society annual meeting; Chicago, IL
- November 2014 “‘What flows from the breast is milk, and milk is the food of babes’: Infancy and Maternity in Gregory of Nyssa's *Homilies on the Song of Songs*,” Gender, Sexuality, and the Bible section of the Society for Biblical Literature annual meeting: San Diego, CA
- May 2013 “Food through the Flesh of Another: Augustine and the Symbolic Power of Nourishment,” The North American Patristics Society annual meeting: Chicago, IL
- November 2012 “Potent (Eucharistic) Potables: *Pharmakon* and Ancient Memory-Reconsolidation in Cyprian of Carthage,” Religious Experience in Early Judaism and Christianity section of the Society for Biblical Literature annual meeting: Chicago, IL

May 2012	“Gregory of Nyssa at the Breast of the Bridegroom,” The North American Patristics Society annual meeting: Chicago, IL
May 2010	“Neither Male nor Female? Sexual Difference in Maximus the Confessor’s <i>Ambiguum 41</i> ,” The North American Patristics Society annual meeting: Chicago, IL
November 2008	“‘Seek More Profitable Sights’: Augustine, Secular Spectatorship, and the <i>Spectacula</i> of the Church,” Augustine and Augustinianisms section of the American Academy of Religion: Chicago, IL
May 2008	“Pilgrims in the Valley of Weeping: Augustine, The Psalms, and the Sorrows of Faith,” The North American Patristics Society annual meeting: Chicago, IL

AWARDS, GRANTS, & FELLOWSHIPS

2022-2025	Project Director, NEH Initiatives Grant: “Revitalizing the Liberal Arts through the Health Humanities at Bucknell University”
2021-2024	NEH Chair in the Humanities at Bucknell University
Spring 2022	NEH Research Fellowship, American School of Classical Studies at Athens
2021	Bucknell University Scadden Fellow for Science in the Humanities
2020	Bucknell Mellon Foundation “Confounding Problems” Curriculum Development Grant
2017	Bucknell University Scadden Fellow for Science in the Humanities
2016	Bucknell University Summer Research Development Grant
2014-2015	Fordham University Alumni Dissertation Fellowship
2013-2015	Fordham University Orthodox Christian Studies Center Graduate Fellow
2009-2014	Fordham University Presidential Scholarship
2013	Fordham University Orthodox Christian Studies Center Summer Fellowship
2010	Fordham University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Summer Research Fellowship
2005-2007	Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Theological Studies Fellowship
2002-2005	Elon University Religious Studies Scholarship
2004	Elon University Summer Undergraduate Research Fellow
2003	Elon University Summer Undergraduate Research Fellow
2001-2002	Elon University Isabella Cannon Leadership Fellow

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses Taught

Bucknell University

RELI 100/110	Introduction to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
RELI 212	Christianity
RELI 223	History of Western Religious Thought
RELI 232	What is Religion? Methods and Theories in Religious Studies
RELI 250	How to be Alone: Religion, Solitude, and Loneliness
RELI 253	Dying for God: Martyrdom from Antigone to ISIS
RELI 252	New Testament and Christian Origins
RELI 312	Digesting Divinity: Religion, Food, and Diet
RELI 400	Going through the Motions: Ritual, Performance, and Practice in the Study of Religion
RESC/FOUN 98	The Bad Place: Hell and the History of Incarceration
UNIV 200	Unfolding the Myth: Religious Studies and Creative Writing (Team Taught Course)

Fordham University

THEO 1000	Faith and Critical Reason
THEO 3310	Early Christian Writings
THEO 3320	Augustine, Aquinas, and Luther

Directed Research

AY 2022-2023	Advisor for Religious Studies Senior Thesis (Paris Gallagher)
Summer 2022	Advisor for Emerging Fellows Summer Research (Paris Gallagher)
Summer 2018	Advisor for Emerging Fellows Summer Research (Richard Stover)
AY 2017-2018	Advisor for Religious Studies Honors Thesis (Adam Windham)
Summer 2017	Advisor for Bucknell Institute for Public Policy Student Fellows Research (Emma Downey and Daphne Ratnarajah)

Teaching Development

May 2019	Bucknell University Supporting the Student Experience Summit
May 2018	Bucknell University Mellon Workshop on Collaborative Research with Students in the Humanities
Fall 2017	Fordham University Wabash Consultation on Preparation for Teaching in the Field
Fall 2015	Bucknell University New Faculty Pedagogy Weekly Series
August 2015	Bucknell University Course Design and Pedagogy Workshop
Spring 2010	Fordham University Center for Teaching Excellence Pedagogy Workshop

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Bucknell University

University Service

Fall 2022-	Program Director, Health Humanities Initiative at Bucknell
Fall 2022-	Member, Presidential Fellows Advisory Committee
Fall 2019-	Member, Women's and Gender Studies Coordinating Committee
Summer 2018-	Member, Food Systems Minor Coordinating Committee (with term as Chair)
Spring 2023	Admitted Students Day Mock Class Session Instructor
Spring 2023	Member, Search Committee for Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies
Summer 2022-Summer 2023	Interim Director, Bucknell Humanities Center
Fall 2022-Spring 2023	Member, Search Committee for Assistant Professor of CAMS
Summer 2020-Summer 2021	Chair, Medical/Health Humanities Working Group
Summer 2019-Spring 2021	Member, Humanities Council, Steering Committee
Spring 2020	Host, The Humanities at Bucknell Admissions Event on ZOOM
Fall 2019	Member, Search Committee for VP of Enrollment Management
Spring 2019	Member, Search Committee for Muslim Chaplain
Spring 2019	Member, Search Committee for VAP Search in Anthropology
Summer 2016-Summer 2018	Member, Humanities Council, Steering Committee
Fall 2017-Summer 2018	Member, Search Committee for Director of Religious Life
Fall 2016-Spring 2017	Member, Affinity House Selection Committee
Fall 2016-Summer 2017	Member, First-Year Reading Program Committee

Departmental Service

Fall 2023-	Department Chair, Religious Studies
Fall 2015-	Chair, Department Subcommittee on Social Media & Outreach
Fall 2022	Search Committee Member, Detmer-Mirza Chair in Islamic Studies
2016-2018, 2019-2021	Department Representative, Humanities Council

Spring 2021	Search Committee Member, Visiting Professor of Christianity
Summer 2020-Spring 2021	Organized/participated in admissions events for Humanities division
Spring 2020	Search Committee Member, Islamic Studies VAP (canceled due to COVID19)
September 2019	Snap Talk Speaker and Department Rep at Arts & Humanities Open House
April 2019	Guest Lecture for Admitted Students Open House
2015-2018	Department Library Representative
May 2018	Panelist at Integrated Perspectives Training Workshop
April 2018	Guest Lecture at Admitted Students Open House
March 2018	Faculty advisor for Common Ground Leader Training
September 2017-January 2018	Search Committee Member, Detmer-Mirza Chair in Islamic Studies
September 2017	Guest Lecture at Humanities Res College Common Hour
September 2017	Department Representative at Academic and Activities Fair
August 2017	Guest Lecture for First Year Reading Experience on Orientation Week
April 2017	Department Representative at Admitted Students Day
Fall 2016	Member, TLC Learning Community: Bridging Student and Academic Affairs
October 2016	Department Representative at Humanities Open House for the Res College
August 2016	Department Representative at Arts and Humanities Open House
Spring 2016	Search committee member, Visiting Professor of South Asian Religions
Spring 2016	Search committee member, Visiting Professor of Ethics
October 2015	Department Representative at Humanities Open House for the Res College
September 2015	Department Representative at Family Weekend Department Open House
August 2015	Department Representative at Arts and Humanities Open House

Service to the Field

2016-2018	Member, North American Patristics Society Awards & Prizes Committee
2016-2018	Board Member, Working group on religion, medicine, disability, and health in late antiquity (https://remedhe.com/member-profiles/)

External Reviewer: book manuscripts for Oxford University Press (x2); articles at the *Journal of Early Christian Studies* (x2); *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*; *Vigiliae Christianae*

ACADEMIC SOCIETIES AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Academy of Religion
- Society of Biblical Literature
- American Society for Church History
- North American Patristics Society

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

Ancient: Attic Greek, Latin; *Modern:* French, German, Italian, Greek