

1/12/2015

CURRICULUM VITAE

JOSEPH P. AMAR

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1. HIGHER EDUCATION

Ph.D., Catholic University of America, *Semitic Languages*, May 1988
M.A., Catholic University of America, *Semitic Languages*, May 1983
S.T.L., Catholic University of America, *Patrology*, May 1974
S.T.B., Catholic University of America, *Historical Theology*, May 1973

2. ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2006 Professor, Department of Classics, University of Notre Dame
2000 - present Concurrent Professor, Department of Theology,
University of Notre Dame
1997 - 1998 Acting Chair, Department of Classics, University of Notre Dame
1995 - present Director, Mediterranean/Middle East Minor, University of Notre
Dame
1995 - 2006 Associate Professor of Arabic Language and Literature, University
of Notre Dame
1989 - 94 Assistant Professor of Arabic Language and Literature,
University of Notre Dame
1988 - 89 Visiting Assistant Professor of Arabic Language and Literature,
University of Notre Dame
1988 - 89 Lecturer, Department of Semitic Languages, Catholic University
of America
1985 - 88 Director, Arabic and Syriac Studies, Our Lady of Lebanon
Maronite Seminary, Washington, D.C.

3. SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2007 National Endowment for the Humanities, Research Fellowship
2007 Earhart Foundation Research Grant
2006 National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer University Professors
Seminar: "Early Christianity Between Rome and Persia: Cities, Schools,
and Scholars
1999 National Endowment for the Humanities, Research Fellowship
1992 - 93 Lilly Endowment Teaching Fellowship
1990 National Endowment for the Humanities, Research Fellowship
1984 - 88 Catholic University of America, full tuition doctoral scholarship

4. AWARDS

- 2000 Kaneb Teaching Award, University of Notre Dame
1994 Publication Subvention, Institute for Scholarship in Liberal Arts, University of Notre Dame.

5. PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

North American Patristic Society
Middle East Studies Association
Society of Biblical Literature
Canadian Society for Syriac Studies

6. REFEREED BOOKS AND MONOGRAPHS

The Syriac Vita Tradition of Ephrem the Syrian. Corpus Scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium, Scriptorum Syri, vols. 242 and 243; Louvain, 2011.

Dionysius bar Salibi, A Response to the Arabs. Corpus Scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium, Scriptorum Syri, vols. 614 and 615; Louvain, 2005.

The Mimra by Jacob of Sarug on Holy Mar Ephrem: Introduction, Critical Syriac Text, English Translation. Patrologia Orientalis, Tome 47, Fasc. 1, no. 209; Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols, 1995; 75pp.

St. Ephrem the Syrian. Selected Prose Works. Fathers of the Church, vol. 91; Washington, D. C.: Catholic University of America Press, 1994; xxx+393pp. (with Edward G. Mathews).

Books in Progress

Ephrem the Syrian. A Cultural and Intellectual Biography

7. REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

“The Loss of Syria,” cover essay, *Commonweal*, Oct. 12, 2012.

“Where Abraham Walked,” essay, *Jewish Review of Books*, vol. 3, no. 3, Fall 2012.

“Intercalated Psalmody in Syriac Antiquity,” in Robin Darling Young and Monica J. Blanchard, eds., *To Train His Soul in Books*; Catholic University of America Press, 2011.

“Christianity at the Crossroads: the Legacy of Ephrem the Syrian,” *Religion and Literature*, Fall, 2011.

“Syriac Strophic Poetry,” in Monica Blanchard, ed., *Festschrift in Honor of Sidney H. Griffith*; Catholic University of America Press, 2010; 42pp.

“The Encomium of Edessa attributed to Ephrem the Syrian” *Orientalia Christiana Analecta* 58 (2008): 120-162.

- “The Syriac Hussoyo: A Form Critical Study of the Genre,”
Orientalia Christiana Periodica, (October, 2007): 250-323.
- “Gabriel Khouri-Sarkis, Founder and Director of *L’Orient Syrien*: His Contributions after Forty Years,” *Orientalia Christiana Periodica*, (October, 2007): 172- 229.
- “The Persistence of Syriac” in Martin Bloomer, ed., *The Contest of Language*; University of Notre Dame Press, 2005.
- “The Interplay of Prayer and Scripture in the Syriac Tradition: A Liturgical Perspective,”
Diakonia, XXXIV, No. 3 (2001): 189-211.
- “Most Blessed of All Women: Mary in the Syriac Liturgical Piety,” *Diakonia* XXXIV, No. 3 (2001): 212- 240.
- “An Unpublished *Karshuni* Arabic Life of Ephrem the Syrian,”
Le Muséon 106 (1993): 119-144.
- “Byzantine Ascetic Monachism and Greek Bias in the *Vita* Tradition of Ephrem the Syrian,” *Orientalia Christiana Periodica* 58 (1992): 123-156.
- “Hermits and Desert Dwellers” in Vincent Wimbush ed., *Ascetical Behavior in Greco-Roman Antiquity. A Sourcebook*; Minneapolis: Fortress, 1990: 66-89.
- “Perspectives on the Eucharist in Ephrem the Syrian,” *Worship* 61, No. 5 (1987): 441-454.
- “The Syriac *Hoosoyo*: A Study in Narrative Techniques,” *Diakonia* 22, no. 3 (1989): 153-168.

8. UNREFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Short Articles, Encyclopedia Entries

“The Syriac Life of Ephrem the Syrian,” “Saint Maron,” “Maronite Church,” “Mar Yahballaha,” Rabban Sawma” in George Kiraz, ed., *Gorgias Encyclopedic Dictionary of Syriac Heritage*; Hackensack, New Jersey: Hugoye Press, 2011.

“Bardaisan,” “Aphrahat,” “Ephrem,” “Jacob of Sarug,” “Narsai,” “Tatian,” “The *Diatessaron*,” “Babai the Great,” “Christian Literature in Arabic,” “Dionysius bar Salibi,” “Gregory bar Hebraeus,” “Michael the Syrian,” “Philoxenus of Mabbugh,” “Qiyore,” “Syriac Versions of the Bible,” “Theodore Abu Qurrah,” “Theodore bar Koni” in George Kurian, ed., *The Encyclopedia of Christian Civilization*; New York and London: Blackwell, 2011.

Interventions of Maronite Bishops to Synod on the Word of God, Rome, October, 2008:

- 1 – “The Word in Syriac Maronite Theology” (Eparch of Cyprus)
- 2 – “Maronite-Muslim Dialogue: The Word of God in Christian and Muslim Tradition” (Eparchy of Beirut)
- 3 – “Christian Social Witness in Syria and Lebanon” (Eparchy of Damascus)
L’Osservatore Romano, October, 2008.

“Syria” in L. Schiffman and J. VanderKam eds., *Dictionary of the Dead Sea Scrolls* vol. 2; Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007: 908-911.

“Syriac Medical Literature” in Josef Meri ed., *Medieval Islamic Civilization: An Encyclopedia*, 2 vols.; New York: Routledge, 2006: 97-99.

“Christian Arabic Literature” in Everett Ferguson ed., *Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*, Second Edition, 2 vols; New York: Garland Publishing, 1997; vol. 1, 98-99.

Encyclopédie Maronite, Bibliothèque de L'Université Saint-Esprit (Jounieh, Lebanon 1992 →).

- 1) “Monachisme dans L’Eglise syriaque,” 1500 words
- 2) “Edesse: ville et école de théologie,” 1000 words
- 3) “Exégèse biblique syriaque,” 1500 words
- 4) “Le Diatessaron,” 1000 words
- 5) “Le Rite liturgique de ‘Hussoyo’” 1500 words
- 6) “Vie d’Ephrem le Syrien,” 1500 words

Commentary

“A Shared Voice. When Jews and Christians Drand from the Same Wells.” *The Times Literary Supplement*, Oct. 3, 2014; 14-16

Book Reviews

D. BeDuhn, *The First New Testament*. Salem, OR: Polebridge, 1013. *Theological Studies*, forthcoming.

Elena Narinskaya, *Ephrem, a ‘Jewish’ Sage. A Comparison of the Exegetical Writings of St. Ephrem the Syrian and Jewish Traditions*. Brepols, 2010. *Theological Studies*, June 2014.

The Church from Age to Age: A History. E. Engelbrecht, ed. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, 2012; *Theological Studies*, Oct. 2012.

The “Other” in Second Temple Judaism: Essays in Honor of John J. Collins, Daniel C. Hawkins et al. eds., Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 2011.

Hugoye online Journal of Syriac Studies.

Joel T. Walker, *The Legend of Mar Qardagh: Narrative and Christian Heroism in Late Antique Iraq*; in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, 70. 2, September, 2011.

The Acts of Mār Mārī the Apostle. Translated with an Introduction and Notes by Amir Harrak (Society of Biblical Literature: Writings from the Greco-Roman World, Number 11). *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, 70.1, April, 2011.

The Acts of Mār Mārī the Apostle. Translated with an Introduction and Notes by Amir Harrak (Society of Biblical Literature: Writings from the Greco-Roman World, Number 11). *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* 30/4 (2006): 209-210.

The Acts of Mār Mārī the Apostle. Translated with an Introduction and Notes by Amir Harrak (Society of Biblical Literature: Writings from the Greco-Roman World, Number 11).

Review of Biblical Literature (January, 2006): [<http://www.bookreviews.org>].

Alexander Borg, *Comparative Glossary of Cypriot Maronite Arabic (Arabic-English) with an Introductory Essay*. Brill, 2004.

Speculum, Journal of the Medieval Academy of America 81/3: 490-491.

Eleanor H. Tejirian and Reeva Spector Simon eds., *Altruism and Imperialism: Western Cultural and Religious Missions in the Middle East*; Occasional Papers 4; Middle East Institute, Columbia University; Columbia University, 2002.

Bulletin of the Middle East Studies Association 39/1 (2005): 108-111.

Sebastian Brock, *From Ephrem to Romanos: Interaction between Syriac and Greek in Late Antiquity*. Ashgate: Variorum Collected Studies Series, 1999.

Journal of Early Christian Studies 8/1 (2000): 115-116.

Micheline Albert (ed.) *Christianismes orientaux: Introduction à l'étude des langues et des littératures*. Paris: Editions du Cerf, 1994.

Journal of Early Christian Studies 4/2 (1996): 249-251.

Garth Fowden, *Empire to Commonwealth. Consequences of Monotheism in Late Antiquity*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993.

Journal of Early Christian Studies 3/4 (1995): 507-509.

Pauly Kanno-kadan, *The East Syrian Lectionary: An Historico-Liturgical Study*.

Rome: Mar Thoma Yogam, 1991.

Speculum, Journal of the Medieval Academy of America 69/1 (1994): 192-93.

Columba Stewart OSB, 'Working the Earth of the Heart' *The Messalian Controversy in History, Texts, and Language to AD 431*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1991.

Critical Review of Books and Religion 6 (1993): 395-396.

Jacques Isaac, *Taksa d-Hussaya. Le rite du Pardon dans L'Eglise syriaque orientale*. Rome: Orientalia Christiana Analecta 233 (1989).

Worship 65/2 (1991): 183-185.

Short Notices

D. J. Lane, et al. (eds.), *The Old Testament in Syriac: Peshitta Version. Part I, 2 Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy; Part II, 1b Joshua*. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1991.

Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha 5 (1995): 122.

Samuel H. Moffett, *A History of Christianity in Asia. Volume I: Beginnings to 1500*. San Francisco: Harper, 1992.

Religious Studies Review 20/3 (1994): 242.

- A. Gelston, *The Eucharistic Prayer of Addai and Mari*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992.
Religious Studies Review 20/2 (1994): 154.
- Sebastian Brock, *The Luminous Eye: The Spiritual World Vision of St. Ephrem the Syrian*. (Kalamazoo, 1992).
Religious Studies Review 20/2 (1994): 154.
- Sebastian Brock, *St. Ephrem the Syrian. Hymns On Paradise*. St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1990; and Kathleen McVey, *Ephrem the Syrian: Hymns*. Paulist Press, 1989,
Religious Studies Review 18/2 (1992): 232.
- Irfan Shahid, *Byzantium and the Arabs in the Fifth Century*. Washington, D.C. Washington, D.C.: Dumbarton Oaks, 1989.
Religious Studies Review 17/1 (1991): 71-72.
- Tanios Bou Mansour, *La Pensée symbolique de Saint Ephrem le Syrien*. Kaslik, Lebanon: Bibliothèque de L'Université Saint-Esprit 16 (1988).
Religious Studies Review 16/3 (1990): 263.
- Sebastian Brock, *The Syriac Fathers on Prayer and the Spiritual Life*. Kalamazoo: Cistercian Publications, 1987.
Religious Studies Review 15/4 (1989): 358.

10. INVITED LECTURES AND ADDRESSES

Keynote Addresses

- “Return to the Sources: What we think we know about Ephrem of Nisibis.”
Symposium Syriacum The Catholic University of America, June 2015.
- “Where Abraham Walked” Opening Address of “Crossing Borders. Manuscripts from the Bodleian Libraries,” The Jewish Museum, New York, October 12-15, 2012.
- “Bar Hebraeus, Dionsyius bar Salibi, Michael the Syrian and the Syriac Renaissance – 11th – 13th Century. North American Syriac Symposium, Duke University, June 26-29, 2011.
- “Byzantine Hagiography and the Re-Making of a Saint: Ephrem in Byzantine Tradition,”
Byzantine Studies Conference, University of Toronto, October 27-29, 2008.
- “New Opportunities in Syriac Studies: Assessing the State of the Field”:
Dorushe Graduate Syriac Conference, University of Notre Dame,
April 4-6, 2008
- “Dialectical Affiliations of Modern Spoken Syriac: A Case Study,”
Modern Syriac Literature Conference, The Oriental Institute, The University of Chicago, April 10-12, 2007.

“*Hussoyo*: Syriac Patterns of Prayer”: Canadian Syriac Studies Symposium, University of Toronto, May 16-18, 2006.

“The 12th Century Syriac Literary Revival”: The Syriac Studies Symposium, Princeton University, June 26-29, 2004.

“The Interplay between Prayer and Scripture in Syriac Tradition: A Liturgical Perspective”: A Celebration of Syriac-Maronite Heritage, University of Scranton, Center for Eastern Christian Studies, June 29-30, 2001.

“Most Blessed of All Women: Mary in Syriac Liturgical Piety”: A Celebration of Syriac Maronite Heritage, University of Scranton, Center for Eastern Christian Studies, June 29-30, 2001.

“Cross, Crescent and Kublai Khan: The History of Mar Yahballaha”: Syriac Studies Symposium, Catholic University of America, June 4-6, 1995.

“The Syriac *Hoosoyo*: A Study in Narrative Techniques”: Center for Eastern Christian Studies, University of Scranton, June 1989.

Lectures and Papers

“Syriac Studies in Light of the War in Syria,”
The North American Patristic Society, Chicago, May 23-25, 2013.

“Christianity at the Crossroads: Byzantine Imperial Christianity and Ephrem the Syrian,”
The North American Patristic Society, Chicago, May 19-21, 2010.

“Syriac Literary Culture: Where Rome and Persia Met,”
The North American Patristic Society, Chicago, May 22-24,
2008.

“The Legacy of Hellenism and Syriac-speaking Christianity,”
Knowledge and Religious Identity: Institutions of Higher Learning in
Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Beyond, University of Notre Dame,
October 4-6, 2007.

“St. Ephrem the Syrian in Context,”
The North American Patristic Society, Chicago, May, 2005.

Dionysius bar Salibi’s Apologetical Treatise: “A Response to the Arabs”:
Towards a New Reading of the Qur’an: An International Conference at the
University of Notre Dame, April 2-4, 2005.

“The Persistence of Syriac”: Contest of Languages Conference, University of Notre Dame,
December 2, 2000

“Aramaic Pseudepigraphy”: Christianity and Judaism in Antiquity Seminar, University of Notre Dame, March 1, 2000.

“Cross, Crescent, and Kublai Khan”: Travel in Antiquity Seminar, Medieval Institute, University of Notre Dame, August 31, 2000.

“Evidence for the use of Syriac in Late Antique Syria”: Hellenism in the Land of Israel Conference, University of Notre Dame, April 1999.

“Diffusion of Aramaic in Late Antique Syria”: Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, November, 1999.

“The Syriac Commentary on the Psalms Attributed to Theodore of Mopsuestia”:
The Psalms in Antiquity Conference, University of Notre Dame, December, 1998.

“Dionysius bar Salibi’s Apologetical Treatise ‘A Response to the Arabs’”
The North American Patristic Society, May 1997

“Reconstructing the ‘Golden Age’ of Syriac Literature”:
The North American Patristic Society, May 1994.

“The Syriac Life of Ephrem the Syrian”:
The North American Patristic Society, May 1989.

11. GRANTS

2008 Arts and Letters Research Initiative Grant, University of Notre Dame

2005 Course Development Grant, College of Arts and Letters, University of Notre Dame

2004 Research Materials Grant, Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, University of Notre Dame

2004 Undergraduate Intellectual Initiative Grant, University of Notre Dame

1999 Institute for Christian Oriental Research, Catholic University of America, Research Grant

1999 Henkels Lecture Series Grant, University of Notre Dame: *Syriac Studies Symposium*, June 1999 (organizer)

1993 Course Development Grant, University of Notre Dame

12. SENIOR THESES DIRECTED

Samuel M. Mitchell, “The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Future of US Foreign Interests in the Middle East,” 2013

13. MASTER’S THESES DIRECTED

Carmen Meier, “A Theology of Encounter: Ephrem’s Use of Symbol in the Hymns on the Pearl,” Early Christian Studies, 2004.

“Theology and Politics in a *Politeia* of Believers,” *Early Christian Studies*, 2002 (Kevin Garvey).

“Tracing the Steps of Ephrem and the Rabbis through Genesis,” *Early Christian Studies*, 2001 (Jean-Nicole Saint-Laurent).

Michael Petrin, Theology Ph.D. Candidacy Examination, March 21, 2014.

14. DOCTORAL THESES DIRECTED

“Out of Books, a World: The Scriptural Poetics of Ephrem’s Hymns on Faith,”
Jeffery Wickes, Dept. of Theology, March 2013.

15. APPOINTMENTS

Steering Committee, Syriac Literature and Interpretations of Sacred Texts,
The Society of Biblical Literature, 2014-5.

Editorial Board, Gorgias Press, Piscataway, New Jersey, 2013-

Executive Steering Committee, North American Syriac Symposium, 2012 -

Program Committee “Syriac Biblical Interpretation”
Society of Biblical Literature, September, 2008-.

Interview *Slate On-Line Magazine*, “The Name ‘Jesus’,” December 24, 2008.

Referee, *Dumbarton Oaks Papers*, 2002.

Referee, Routledge Press, 2002.

Ph.D. Board, University of Toronto, 2002.

Censor Librorum, Eparchy of St. Maron, New York, USA, 1996 to present.

Liturgical Commission, Maronite Patriarchate of Antioch, 1996 to present.

Delegate, *Pro Oriente*, Roman Catholic Ecumenical Dialogue Commission, 2000 to present.

16. PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Book jacket endorsements:

Early Arabic-Christian Contributions to Trinitarian Theology. Fortress Press, 2/2013

The Church From Age to Age. A History. Concordia Publishing House, 2/2013

External Referee, “Towards Transcendental Ethics of Intercultural Communication in Islam: Perils and Benefits of a Temporal Reading of the Qur’an,” submitted to *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*, 2/2013

Evaluate submission to *Journal of Religion and Literature* (Univ. of Notre Dame):
“The Nature of God in Gulliver’s Travels,” Oct. 2012.

Evaluate Project Proposal 13-15887S submitted to the Czech Science Foundation: “Late
Ancient and Early Medieval sources for the definition of monotheism in Syro-Palestine
and Arabia from the 4th until the first half of the 7th century C.E.,” Nov. 20, 2012.

Letter published in *The Times Literary Supplement*, July 1, 2011

Peer Review Board, *Bulletin of the Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies (BRIIFS)*,
2008.

17. SERVICE to the UNIVERSITY

Conference Planning Committee: Vatican Library Conference, Notre Dame, June 2016.