

Curriculum Vitae of:

Robert F. Shedinger, Ph.D.
Professor of Religion
Luther College

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Education

Ph.D. in Religious Studies (with distinction) [2000] Temple University

Disstertaion: *Tatian and the Jewish Scriptures: A Textual and Philological Analysis of the Old Testament Citations in Tatian's Diatessaron*

M.A. in Religious Studies (1997) Temple University

Master of Divinity (1994) Eastern Baptist
Theological Seminary

B.S. in Civil Engineering Tech. (Magna Cum Laude) [1982] Temple University

Professional Experience

2014- Professor of Religion, Luther College
2006-2014 Associate Professor of Religion, Luther College
2000-2006 Assistant Professor of Religion, Luther College

Selected courses taught: Introduction to Biblical Studies, The Dead Sea Scrolls, Islam, Contemporary Islamic Movements, Science and Religion, From Ancient Texts to Modern Translations, various interdisciplinary courses such as Biodiversity, Making Decisions for U.S. Schools, Darwin, Drugs, and the Divine

Professional service: Academic Planning Committee (2013-)
Environmental Studies Steering Committee (2011-)
Human Resource Director Search Committee (2011)
Chair, Department of Religion (2008-2011)
Co-Chair, Nobel Peace Prize Forum (2011)
Institutional Assessment Committee (2008-2010)
Faculty Interests Committee (2003-2006)
Health Care Council (2003-2006)

1996-2000 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Temple University

Courses taught: Introduction to the Hebrew Bible, Introduction to the New Testament, Introduction to Western Religions, Introduction to Academic Discourse, College Composition

Publications

Books and Monographs

Jesus and Jihad: Reclaiming the Prophetic Heart of Christianity and Islam (Cascade, 2015).

Radically Open: Transcending Religious Identity in an Age of Anxiety (Cascade, 2012).

Was Jesus a Muslim? Questioning Categories in the Study of Religion (Fortress Press, 2009).

Tatian and the Jewish Scriptures: A Textual and Philological Analysis of the Old Testament Citations in Tatian's Diatessaron. CSCO 591, subs. 109 (Peeter's Press, 2001).

(With Deborah J. Spink), *Who Killed Goliath? Reading the Bible with Heart and Mind* (Judson Press, 2001).

Refereed Articles and Book Chapters

"Jesus" in Oxford Bibliographies Online: Islamic Studies (2012).

"Roger Williams Meets Sayyid Qutb: When the Quest for Religious Liberty becomes a Source for Global Justice," *Perspectives in Religious Studies* 32 (2005), 149-165.

(With Kristin A. Swanson), "Putting it all Together: New Historicism and Teaching the Hebrew Bible at a Church-related College," *SBL Forum* (Feb. 2005).

"Must the Greek Text Always be Preferred? Versional and Patristic Witnesses to the Text of Matthew 4:16," *Journal of Biblical Literature* 123 (2004), 447-464.

The Gospels and the Text of the Hebrew Bible: Micah 5:1 (Matt. 2:6) in Tatian's Diatessaron," in C. A. Evans, ed. *From Prophecy to Testament: The Function of the Old Testament in the New* (Hendrickson, 2004), 114-125.

"Kuhnian Paradigms and Biblical Scholarship: Is Biblical Studies a Science?" *Journal of Biblical Literature* 119 (2000), 453-471.

"A Note on the Variant Form of the Shema in the Writings of Justin Martyr," *Harvard Theological Review* 93 (2000), 161-163.

"Did Tatian Use the Old Testament Peshitta? A Response to Jan Joosten," *Novum Testamentum* 41 (1999), 265-279.

"A Further Consideration of the Textual Nature of Shem-Tob's Hebrew Matthew," *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 61 (1999), 686-694.

"The Textual Relationship between P45 and Shem-Tob's Hebrew Matthew," *New Testament Studies* 43 (1997), 58-71.

Reviews

Marc H. Ellis, *Future of the Prophetic: Israel's Ancient Wisdom Re-presented* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2014) reviewed in *Interpretation* (forthcoming).

Jocelyn Cesari, *Why the West Fears Islam: An Exploration of Muslims in Liberal Democracies* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013) reviewed in *Politics and Religion* (forthcoming).

Akbar Ahmed, *The Thistle and the Drone: How America's War on Terror became a War on Tribal Islam* (Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, 2013) reviewed in *The American Muslim* (Online), 2013.

Kevin J. O'Brien, *An Ethics of Biodiversity: Christianity, Ecology, and the Variety of Life* (Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2010) reviewed in *Ethics, Policy, and Environment*, 2013.

Jeffrey K. Salkin, *Righteous Gentiles in the Hebrew Bible: Ancient Role Models for Sacred Relationships* (Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights Publishing, 2008) reviewed in *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 45 (2010).

Irene Oh, *The Rights of God: Islam, Human Rights, and Comparative Ethics* (Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2007) reviewed in *Journal of Church and State* 50 (2008).

P. J. Williams, *Early Syriac Translation Technique and the Textual Criticism of the Greek Gospels* (Piscataway, N.J.: Gorgias Press, 2004) reviewed in *Text Criticism* 9-10 (2004-05).

David L. Washburn, *A Catalogue of Biblical Passages in the Dead Sea Scrolls* (Atlanta: SBL, 2002) reviewed in *Text Criticism* 8 (2003).

Nicholas Perrin, *Thomas and Tatian: The Relationship between the Gospel of Thomas and the Diatessaron* (Atlanta: SBL, 2002) reviewed in *Journal of Biblical Literature* 122 (2003).

W. M. Thackston, *Introduction to Syriac* (Bethesda, MD: IBEX, 1999) reviewed in *Text Criticism* 7 (2002).

M. P. Weitzman, *The Syriac Version of the Old Testament* (UCOP 56; Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999) reviewed in *Review of Biblical Literature* (Nov. 2000).

Presentations

Academic Conference Papers

“Jesus and Jihad: The Politics of the Sacred and Christian-Muslim Dialogue” at the conference “Sacred Texts and Human Contexts” sponsored by the Hickey Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialogue at Nazareth College, Rochester, NY on June 23-25, 2013.

“Resisting Religionization: The Academic Study of Religion and Islamic Revivalism in America” at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Atlanta.

“Interreligious or Metareligious? The ‘Problem’ of Religion in Christian-Muslim Dialogue” at the Iowa Dialogue Conference (Oct. 22, 2009) sponsored by the University of Northern Iowa.

“Interreligious or Metareligious? Reframing Christian-Muslim Dialogue in a World of Global Injustice” at the 2008 Upper-Midwest Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in St. Paul.

“Wall of Separation or Barrier to Justice? Valuing an Islamic Approach to Church-State Separation” at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in San Diego.

(With Kristin A. Swanson), “Reading the Text, Not the Textbook: Teaching the Hebrew Bible with a New Historicist Framework” at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Philadelphia.

“Silencing the Syriac Tradition: Evidence and Rhetoric in the *Early Versions* of Bruce Metzger and Arthur Vööbus” at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Philadelphia.

“Islam, Development, and the Social Construction of Religion” at the 6th Annual Meeting of the Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy (April 22-23, 2005) in Washington, D.C.

(With Kristin A. Swanson), “Putting it All Together: New Historicism and Teaching the Hebrew Bible at a Church-related College” at the 2004 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in San Antonio.

“Teaching about Islam, Valuing the Islamic Perspective: A Challenge to the Concept of Religious Freedom” at the AACU conference “Diversity and Learning: Democracy’s Compelling Interest” (Oct. 21-23, 2004) in Nashville.

(With Kristin A. Swanson), "Disturbing the Canon: The Use of New Historicism in Teaching the Bible at a Church-related College" at the 2003 Upper-Midwest Regional meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in St. Paul.

"Jewish Exegesis and the Text of Matthean Scriptural Citations: The Case of Matt. 4:16" at the 2002 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Toronto.

"Thomas Kuhn, Robert Funk, and the Historical Jesus: Scientific Revolution or Conservative Reaction?" at the 2001 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Denver.

"The Gospels and the Text of the Hebrew Bible: Micah 5:1 (Matt. 2:6) in Tatian's Diatessaron" at the 2000 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Nashville.

"The Purpose of the Parables: The Masoretic Form of Matt. 13:14-15 (Isa. 6:9-10) in Tatian, Ephrem, and Irenaeus" at the 1999 Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Arlington, Va.

"Did Tatian Use the Old Testament Peshitta? A Textual and Philological Analysis of the Old Testament Quotations in Tatian's Diatessaron" at the 1998 Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in New Brunswick, N.J.

"The Nicolaitans and the Revelation Community: Early Jewish/Christian Conflict in Asia Minor" at the 1997 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in San Francisco.

Invited Lectures

"The truth about Jihad." Community Presentation at the Decorah Public Library, Jan. 28, 2016.

"Islam as Religion: The Challenge of Secularism for Living a Muslim Life" delivered at the annual meeting of The Islamic Organization of North America, Detroit, MI on Nov. 4, 2015.

"Resistance to Change in a Theory of Change: Religion, Science, and Evolutionary Theory's Failure to Evolve," Luther College Religion Forum, Sept. 24, 2015.

"muslim or Muslim" delivered at an invitation-only house party in Las Vegas, Nevada on Oct. 25, 2014.

“Radically Open: Transcending Religious identity in an Age of Anxiety” delivered at Luther College Religion Forum on April 16, 2013.

“The Irony of Islamophobia: Valuing Islamic Resources in a Multifaith World” delivered at the conference “Message of Peace, Countering Islamophobia” held at the University of Toronto on June 16, 2012.

“Was Jesus a Muslim?” delivered at the Islamic Center of Bloomfield Hills, Mich. on Feb. 25, 2012.

“How Islam Could Save Christianity – and the World” delivered at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn. on Feb. 23, 2012.

“Was Jesus a Muslim?” delivered at the Flint, Mich. Islamic Center on March 26, 2011.

“Was Jesus a Muslim?” delivered at the Islamic Society of Nevada and the University of Nevada Las Vegas on March 18-19, 2011.

“Can Islamists be Partners in the Struggle for Peace and Justice? Reassessing the Islamic Threat” delivered at the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize Forum at Luther College in March 2011.

“Is Islam a Religion? Religion, Politics, and Islamic Revivalism in America” delivered at the Luther College Religion Forum on Feb. 15, 2011.

“Engaging Islam Islamically: The Problem of Religion in Interreligious Dialogue” delivered at DePaul University on Oct. 18, 2010.

“Was Jesus a Muslim? Countering Islamophobia with Authentic Dialogue” delivered at Colorado College on Sept. 24, 2010.

“Was Jesus a Muslim?” delivered at the Islamic Foundation of Toronto on June 18, 2010.

“Was Jesus a Muslim?” delivered at the Islamic Society of South Bay, the Islamic Society of East Bay, and the Islamic Society of Sacramento in Santa Ana, Fremont, and Sacramento, Calif. on March 19-20, 2010.

“Was Jesus a Muslim?” delivered at San Jose State University on March 18, 2010.

“Was Jesus a Muslim?” delivered at the Islamic Association of Raleigh in Raleigh, N.C. on Jan. 23, 2010.

“Was Jesus a Muslim? A Christian Perspective” delivered at the Islamic Society of Milwaukee on Nov. 14, 2009.

“Christian and Muslim Views of Social Justice” delivered at the Islamic Organization of North America in Detroit on Oct. 24, 2009.

“Can Christians Believe in Evolution? Darwin, the Bible, and the Growing Environmental Crisis” delivered at the Luther College Religion Forum on April 18, 2006.

“America through the Eyes of Islam” at the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Forum at St. Olaf College (Feb. 2004).

“Are We at War with Islam? Traditional Islamic Resistance to the American Democratic Ideal” delivered at the Luther College Paideia Texts and Issues Lecture Series on Oct. 14, 2003.

“(With Kristin A. Swanson), “Who Were the Israelites? The Academic Study of the Bible and the Search for Peace in Contemporary Palestine” delivered at the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize Forum at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn. (March 2003).

“Defending the Ummah: The Historical Roots of Islamic Fundamentalism” delivered at the conference “Terrorism: Psychoanalytic and Religious Perspectives” sponsored by the Minneapolis Psychoanalytic Society and Institute on Jan. 4-5, 2002.

“Scripture, Community, and Identity: The Human Side of Divine Revelation” delivered at the Luther College Paideia Texts and Issues Lecture Series on Oct. 2, 2001.

Other Professional Activity

Member of the steering committee of the Politics and Religion Section of American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (2010-2015).

Manuscript Referee for the C. Henry Smith series (2012).

Manuscript Referee for Wiley-Blackwell Publishers (2012).

Judge for the Abdel-Kader Education Project’s High School essay contest (2011-)

Grant evaluator for Humanities Iowa for a workshop sponsored by TeachMideast, a subsidiary of the Middle East Policy Council (2011).

Member of the Editorial Board of *Perspectives in Religious Studies* published by the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion (2005-2009).

Participated in travel course to Turkey during June 2004 sponsored by the Council on Intercultural Educational Exchange.

Assisted Dr. Robert B. Wright with the production of the CD-ROM *The Psalms of Solomon: Color Images of Greek and Syriac Manuscripts* (Temple University, 2000).

Honors and Awards

Cargill Foundation award (\$1200) to promote sustainability in the curriculum (2012).

FaCE (Faculty Career Enhancement) Grant from the Associated Colleges of the Midwest to participate in a collaboration on "Teaching Islam in the Liberal Arts" with faculty from Colorado College and Macalestar College (2010).

Luther College Faculty Development Grant (\$2000) for study in Turkey (2004).

Ylvisaker Faculty Development Award (\$2000) for study in Turkey (2004).

Lilly Vocations Reading Grant (\$500) to read the Harvard series on World Religions and Ecology.

Four-year Teaching Assistantship Award at Temple University (1996-2000).

Inclusion in the Millennium Edition of Marquis "Who's Who in America?" (2000).

American Bible Society Award for Excellence in Biblical Studies at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary (1994).

Languages

Native: English

Reading knowledge: German, French, Biblical and Patristic Greek, Biblical Hebrew, Biblical Aramaic, Syriac

Working knowledge: Qur'anic Arabic

Affiliations

American Academy of Religion