

## David Allen Michelson

Vanderbilt University  
411 21st Avenue South  
Nashville, TN 37240

Office: (615) 343-3990  
Fax: (615) 343-5449  
david.a.michelson@vanderbilt.edu

### Employment:

#### **Vanderbilt University** (2012-present)

Assistant Professor of the History of Christianity, Divinity School  
Assistant Professor, Graduate Department of Religion  
Affiliate Assistant Professor, Department of Classical Studies  
Affiliate Assistant Professor, Program in Islamic Studies

#### **University of Alabama** (2008-2012)

Assistant Professor, Ancient World and Late Antiquity, Department of History

#### **Princeton University** (2006-2008)

Acting Associate Director, Center for the Study of Religion

### Degree Programs:

#### **Princeton University**, Princeton, N.J.

**Ph.D.**, History (Program in the Ancient World), awarded November 10, 2007

**Dissertation:** "Orthodoxy and the Spiritual Struggle in the World of Philoxenos of Mabbug (470-523)"

**Committee:** Peter Brown (Advisor), Averil Cameron (Oxford), Slobodan Ćurčić, and Maria Mavroudi

**M.A.**, History, *with distinction*, 2003

**Fields:** Late Antiquity, Byzantium, High Medieval Europe

#### **Trinity Evangelical Divinity School**, Deerfield, Ill.

**M.A.**, Church History, *Summa Cum Laude*, 2001

**Thesis:** "*La perpétuité de la foi: The Appeal to Eastern Christianity of Jean Claude's Eucharistic Polemics, Viewed in its French Reformation and Counter Reformation Contexts*"

**Committee:** John Woodbridge (Advisor), Scott Manetsch, Dale Van Kley (Ohio State)

**Fields:** History of Christianity, Reformation History, American Christianity

#### **Hillsdale College**, Hillsdale, Mich.

**B.A.**, French and Political Science, *Summa Cum Laude*, 1998

### Further Education:

**Wolfson College, Oxford University**, Oxford, U.K. Visiting Post-Graduate Student, Faculties of Classics and Oriental Studies, 2004-2005

### Further Education Continued:

**American School of Classical Studies at Athens**, Athens, Greece. Summer Program: “Ancient and Medieval Turkey” held in Turkey, 2004

**Aestiva Romae Latinitas Reginaldi Foster**, Summer Latin Course, Rome, Italy, 2002  
Instructor: Reginald Foster, O.C.D., Vatican Secretariat of State

**L’Université des Sciences Humaines de Strasbourg/La Ministère de l’Éducation Nationale**, Strasbourg, France, Diplôme Approfondi de Langue Française (French Language Diploma, Equivalent to TOEFL for English), 1998

**Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai**, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, Diploma Cursului de Vara “Civilizația Românească” (Summer Course Diploma in Romanian Civilization), 1997

### Research Languages:

**Ancient & Medieval:** Armenian, Greek, Latin, & Syriac

**Modern:** French, German, & Romanian

**Artificial:** XPath, Xquery, HTML, Markdown, XML (TEI, MADS, EAC),

### Publications:

#### Monograph:

David A. Michelson, *The Practical Christology of Philoxenos of Mabbug*, Oxford Early Christian Studies (Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2014).

<http://global.oup.com/academic/product/the-practical-christology-of-philoxenos-of-mabbug-9780198722960>

#### Co-Authored Reference Work:

David A. Michelson and Thomas A. Carlson, eds., *The Syriac Gazeteer (The Syriac Reference Portal*, 2014), <http://syriaca.org/geo>.

#### Co-Edited Special Issue:

David A. Michelson and Robert A. Kitchen, eds., *Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies* 13.1-2, “A Double Issue on Philoxenos of Mabbug” (Winter & Summer 2010).

<http://www.bethmardutho.org/index.php/hugoye/volume-index/83.html>

#### Peer-Reviewed Article:

“A Bibliographic Clavis to the Works of Philoxenos of Mabbug,” *Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies* 13.2 (Summer 2010), 273–338,

<http://syrcom.cua.edu/hugoye/Vol13No2/HV13N2Michelson.pdf>

#### Peer-Reviewed Chapters:

“Philoxenos of Mabbug: A Cappadocian Theologian on the Banks of the Euphrates?” in J. Kreiner and H. Reimitz, *Motions of Late Antiquity: Religion, Politics, and Society from Constantine to Charlemagne*, n.p. Brepols, forthcoming 2014.

“Philoxenos of Mabbug and the Simplicity of Evagrius Gnosis: Competing Uses of Evagrius in Early Sixth-Century Polemical Theology” in Robin Darling Young and Joel Kalvesmaki, eds., *Evagrius and His Legacy*, n.p. University of Notre Dame Press, forthcoming 2014.

“It is not the custom of our Syriac language...’: Reconsidering the Role of Translation in the Polemics of Philoxenos of Mabbug,” in David Brakke, Deborah Deliyannis, and Edward Watts, eds. *Shifting Cultural Frontiers in Late Antiquity*, 7-22. Burlington, Vt.: Ashgate, 2012.

### **Festschrift Chapter:**

“‘Though He cannot be eaten, we consume Him’: Appeals to Liturgical Practice in the Christological Polemic of Philoxenos of Mabbug,” in *Malphono w-Rabo d-Malphone: Studies in Honor of Sebastian P. Brock*, ed. George A. Kiraz, 439-476. Piscataway, N.J.: Press, 2008.

### **Encyclopedia Articles:**

“Philoxenos of Mabbug” in *The Encyclopedia of Ancient History*, ed. Roger S. Bagnall et al., n.p. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012.

“Philoxenos of Mabbug” in *The Gorgias Encyclopedic Dictionary of the Syriac Heritage*, eds. Sebastian Brock, George A. Kiraz, Lucas Van Rompay, and Aaron Butts, 335-336. Piscataway, N.J.: Gorgias Press, 2011.

### **Book Reviews:**

Review of Andrew Radde-Gallwitz, *Basil of Caesarea: A Guide to His Life and Doctrine* in *Theological Studies* 74 (2013), 763.

Review of Colin Morris, *The Sepulchre of Christ and the Medieval West: From the Beginning to 1600* in *ALA Choice* (April 2006): n.p.

Review of Sylvia Schein, *Gateway to the Heavenly City: Crusader Jerusalem and the Catholic West (1099-1187)* in *ALA Choice* (October 2005): n.p.

Review of Peter Garnsey and Caroline Humfress, *The Evolution of the Late Antique World* in *Fides et Historia*, 35, no. 1 (Winter/Spring 2003): 130-31.

Review of Judith Herrin, *Women in Purple: Rulers of Medieval Byzantium* in *Fides et Historia* 35, no. 1 (Winter/Spring 2003): 131-32.

### **Popular Publications:**

“Charlemagne’s Furniture: Whatever Happened to the Holy Roman Empire?” *Christian History* 108 (2014): 36-38.

<https://www.christianhistoryinstitute.org/magazine/article/charlemagnes-furniture/>

“The Thousand Lives of Charlemagne: How Medieval Poets Turned a Border Skirmish into a Foundational Medieval Legend” *Christian History* 108 (2014): 39.

<https://www.christianhistoryinstitute.org/magazine/article/thousand-lives-of-charlemagne/>

### **Selected Awards and Fellowships:**

- “Distinguished Faculty Award”, Organization of Black Graduate and Professional Students, Vanderbilt University, 2013
- David G. Bauer Grantsmanship Training Fellowship: University of Alabama, College of Arts and Sciences, 2010-2011
- Dissertation Research Fellow, Princeton Center for the Study of Religion, 2005-2006
- Stanley J. Seeger Fellowship, Princeton Program in Hellenic Studies, 2004 & 2006
- Tousimis Award for Best Graduate Student Paper, Byzantine Studies Conference, 2004 & 2006
- Antony and Isabelle Raubitschek Award, American School of Classical Studies at Athens, 2004
- Fellow, Butler College, Princeton University, 2003-2004
- J.F. Coustopoulos Prize in Hellenic Studies, Princeton Program in Hellenic Studies, 2001-2003

### **Conference Presentations:**

- “Syriaca.org as a Model for Collaborative Research on Late Antiquity,” North American Patristics Society 2014 Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, May 23, 2014.
- “Finding Colophons in Syriaca.org: Exploring the TEI Encoding Model,” presented with Justine Arnwine and Anthony Davis, Hugoye Symposium III: Colophons in the Syriac Tradition, Rutgers University, May 16, 2014
- “Reading Syriac Anthologies 400-800: A Survey of the Manuscript Evidence,” Society of Biblical Literature, Baltimore, Md., November 23, 2013
- “Manuscripts and the Making of the Genre of Orthodoxy: An Examination of Syriac Florilegia,” American Society of Church History, New Orleans, January 5, 2013
- “*The Syriac Reference Portal*: Online Tools for the Study of Syriac Literature,” Society of Biblical Literature, Chicago, November 20, 2012
- “*The Syriac Reference Portal*,” Linked Ancient World Data Institute, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, NYU, May 31-June 2, 2012
- “A Syriac Reference Portal,” Ancient Religion, Modern Technology Workshop, Brown University, February 13-14, 2012
- “*The Syriac Reference Portal* (www.syriac.ua.edu): A New Collaborative Resource for Byzantinists,” 37<sup>th</sup> Byzantine Studies Conference, DePaul University, Chicago, Ill., October 21-23, 2011
- “*The Syriac Reference Portal*: New Digital Tools for Syriac Studies” 16<sup>th</sup> International conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford University, August 8-12, 2011
- “*The Syriac Reference Portal*: An Introduction and Call for Collaborators,” Sixth North American Syriac Symposium, Duke University, June 26-29, 2011
- “New Standards and Tools for the Study of Syriac Authors: Preliminary Proposals for Syriac Authority Records in The SBL Handbook of Style,” Society of Biblical Literature, Atlanta, Ga., November 22, 2010
- “Proposals for Syriac Prosopography and Authority Control,” 7<sup>th</sup> World Syriac Conference, St. Ephrem Ecumenical Research Institute (SEERI), Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, India, September 8-16, 2010
- “The Philoxenian New Testament and the Hermeneutics of Simplicity.” Society of Biblical Literature, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 21-24, 2009

## Conference Presentations Continued:

- “MS BL Add. 17201: ‘Doctoring’ Orthopraxy into Orthodoxy.” 35<sup>th</sup> Byzantine Studies Conference, Florida State University, Sarasota, Florida, November 5-8, 2009
- “‘It is not the custom of our Syriac language...’: Reconsidering the Role of Translation in the Polemics of Philoxenos of Mabbug,” Shifting Frontiers VIII: Shifting Cultural Frontiers in Late Antiquity, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind., April 2-5, 2009
- “Practice Leads to Theory: Orthodoxy and Spiritual Struggle in the World of Philoxenos of Mabbug (470-523),” 34<sup>th</sup> Byzantine Studies Conference, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, October 16–19, 2008
- “Opposition to Chalcedon as a Spiritual Practice in the Polemics of Philoxenos of Mabbug,” Xth Symposium Syriacum, Granada, Spain, September 22-27, 2008
- “Philoxenos of Mabbug: Prospects for Future Research,” at “Reconsidering Philoxenos of Mabbug”, a symposium organized by Center of Theological Inquiry and Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, May 3, 2008
- “Simplicity of Faith: Anti-Theological Polemics against the Council of Chalcedon,” Villanova University 32nd International Patristic, Medieval & Renaissance Conference, Villanova, Pa., October 19, 2007
- “Religious Practice and the Defense of Miaphysite Orthodoxy: Observations on Philoxenos of Mabbug,” Syriac Studies Symposium V, University of Toronto, June 25-27, 2007
- “The Relationship of Pneumatology and Christology in the Polemics of Philoxenos of Mabbug,” Society of Biblical Literature, Washington, D.C., November 18-21, 2006
- “Philoxenos of Mabbug's Vision of Churchmanship, a Context for Christology.” 6<sup>th</sup> Syriac Conference, SEERI, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, India, September 8-16, 2006
- “Philoxenos of Mabbug on Doctrinal Conflict as a Devotional Practice,” 21<sup>st</sup> International Congress of Byzantine Studies, London, August 21-26, 2006
- “Developing Electronic Databases for Syriac Studies,” Dorushe Conference on Syriac Pedagogy, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., February, 3-5, 2006
- “Monastic orthopraxy and orthodoxy in the writings of Philoxenos of Mabbug,” at “Syria in the Ancient World”, Oxford-Princeton graduate workshop, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J., January 12-14, 2006
- “‘Though He Cannot Be Eaten, We Consume Him’: Liturgical and Devotional Contexts for Opposition to Chalcedon at the End of the Fifth Century,” 31<sup>st</sup> Byzantine Studies Conference, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga., October 28, 2005 (Tousimis Award)
- “Theology and Practice after Chalcedon: Christology and Economy in Miaphysite Episcopal Administration, A.D. 485-518,” Ecclesiastical History Society Postgraduate Conference, The University of Manchester, U.K., February 5, 2005
- “‘If upon Satan are laid the hands of ordination to the priesthood...’ Ἀκρίβεια and Οἰκονομία in Governing the Christian Priesthood in a Time of Crisis,” at “Priesthoods in the Ancient World”, Oxford-Princeton graduate workshop, New College, Oxford, January 11-13, 2005
- “Did Charlemagne Sack Constantinople? Western Charlemagne Legends as Anti-Byzantine Propaganda (c.1000-1204),” 29<sup>th</sup> Byzantine Studies Conference, Bates College, Maine, October 17, 2003 (Tousimis Award)
- “For sin is more foul than putrefaction itself: Ambivalent Connotations of Stench in Late Antiquity,” at “Purity and Pollution in Ancient Religions,” Oxford-Princeton graduate workshop, New College, Oxford, January 9, 2003

## Conference Presentations Continued:

“*La Perpétuité de la Foi: A Reformation Debate in the République des lettres*,” Conference on Faith and History Student Research Conference, Huntington College, Huntington, In., October 10, 2002

## Invited Presentations:

- “Building Tools for Digital Collaboration: A Case Study from *Syriaca.org*,” Digital Humanities Seminar, Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, Vanderbilt University, December 3, 2013
- “*The Syriac Gazetteer*,” Geographic Imagination and the Spatial Humanities Seminar, Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, Vanderbilt University, November 15, 2013
- “*Syriaca.org: The Syriac Reference Portal*,” Workshop on Cultures of the Late Antique Mediterranean, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, November 1, 2013
- “Scholars’ Contribution to VIAF,” joint presentation with Karen Smith-Yoshimura (OCLC) to the Virtual International Authority File Council, May 2, 2013
- “TEI for Syriac Manuscript Description,” Online Workshop with Students in HIS 494B, Gordon College, Mass., April 2, 2013
- “*Syriaca.org: The Syriac Reference Portal*,” Digital Humanities Seminar, Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, Vanderbilt University, March 19, 2013
- Panel Member, “Syriac Portal, Digital Humanities, and Ancient Texts,” The Edmundite Center for Faith and Culture, St. Michael’s College, Vermont, October 5, 2012
- “Philoxenos of Mabbug and the Simplicity of Evagrius *Gnosis*: Competing Uses of Evagrius in Early Sixth-Century Polemical Theology,” Symposium: “After Evagrius: The Controversial Legacy of Evagrius of Pontus,” *Dumbarton Oaks* (Harvard University), Washington, D.C., April 15–16, 2011
- “The Spiritual Benefits of Being ‘Lost in Translation’, or The Cultural Authority of the Greek New Testament and Greek Theology in the Roman Near East,” Greece and Global Culture Symposium, University of Alabama, April 1, 2011
- “Crowdsourcing Historical Research: Challenges and Advantages of Collaborative Digital Research,” European History Workshop, University of Alabama, November 19, 2010
- “Philoxenos and the Attractive Simplicity of Evagrius,” Byzantine Studies Workshop: The Work and Legacy of Evagrius of Pontus, University of Notre Dame, May 25-26, 2010
- “Putting Action into Words: The Formation of Christian Orthodoxy in Late Antiquity Viewed from Syriac Sources,” Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program, Eastern Carolina University, March 25, 2010
- “The End of Christianity in Iraq?” Center for Politics and Religion, Union University, Jackson, Tennessee, April 23, 2009

### **Invited Presentations Continued:**

- “Philoxenos of Mabbug and the Practice of Orthodoxy: A Syriac Case Study for the Place of Praxis in the Chalcedonian Christological Controversies,” Workshop on Late Antiquity and Byzantium, University of Chicago, May 8, 2008
- “Biblical Commentary and Translation in the Wake of Chalcedon: Philoxenos of Mabbug and the Revision of the Syriac New Testament.” Patristics Seminar, Faculty of Theology, Oxford University, May 25, 2005.

### **Teaching Experience:**

#### **Vanderbilt University (Assistant Professor, 2012-present):**

- DIV/REL 2701 “Formation of Christian Traditions”
- DIV/REL 2716 “Religion, Society, and Culture in the Later Roman Empire”
- DIV/REL 3175 “Desert Spirituality in Early Christianity”
- DIV/REL 3986 “Topics in the Digital Humanities for Historians and Scholars of Religion”
- Independent Study “Digital Humanities: Early Syriac Scribes and Manuscripts”
- Independent Study “Reading Course In Early Church History”

#### **University of Alabama (Assistant Professor, 2008-2012):**

- “Byzantine History”
- “Graduate Directed Readings: Syriac Studies”
- “Graduate Directed Readings: Council of Chalcedon”
- “History of Monasticism (Undergraduate Research Seminar)”
- “Honors Thesis in History”
- “Honors Western Civilization to 1648”
- “Introduction to Digital Humanities”
- “Introduction to Syriac Language and Literature”
- “Roman History”
- “Undergraduate Independent Study: Computer Based Honors Research”
- “Undergraduate Independent Study: Nicaea to Chalcedon”
- “Undergraduate Independent Study: Syriac Mystics and the Desert Fathers”
- “Undergraduate Independent Study: Syriac Grammar”
- “Undergraduate Independent Study: Syriac Manuscript Cataloguing”
- “Western Civilization to 1648”

#### **Rutgers University (Part-Time Lecturer, 2008)**

- “The Roman World in Late Antiquity”

#### **Villanova University (Visiting Assistant Professor, 2007)**

- “Augustine and Culture Seminar”

#### **Princeton University (Assistant in Instruction, 2005-2006)**

- “The New Testament and Christian Origins”
- “Europe from Antiquity to 1700”

#### **Trinity College, Deerfield, Ill. (Teaching Assistant, 2000)**

- “World Civilizations I”

## **Hillsdale College (Language Lab Instructor, 1996-1997)**

“Beginning French I & II”

### **Graduate Training:**

#### **Vanderbilt University:**

##### **Ph.D. Dissertation Committees:**

Leonidas Kotsiris, “*Even as We are One: a Study on the Question of Will in Trinitarian Theology until 381*,” defended March 13, 2013

##### **Ph.D. Qualifying Exam Committees:**

Jennifer Sylvan Alexander, completed December 3, 2013

Jennifer Awes Freeman, completed March 15, 2013

##### **M.T.S. Thesis Committees:**

Will Hunter, 2014

##### **Field Education Supervision:**

Mitchell Esswein (Princeton Theological Seminary), 2013-2014

#### **University of Alabama:**

##### **M.A. Examination Committee:**

Timothy LaBarbera, completed April 9, 2012

### **Undergraduate Supervision:**

#### **University of Alabama:**

“Syriac Manuscript Catalogue Data Digitization,” Robert Aydin, New College, University of Alabama, Summer 2011-2013.

“Syriac Reference Portal”, Computer Based Honors Program, 2011-2012

“Syriac and Arabic Personal and Place Names,” Katherine Kelly, New College, University of Alabama, Fall 2011

“Survey of Classical Syriac Grammar,” Robert Aydin, New College, Spring 2011-2012.

“Syriac Reference Portal,” Ryan Stitt, Christian Wehby & Edward Gray, History Department, Research Presentation at Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Conference, April, 2011

“Ancient Documents in a Digital Age: *The Syriac Reference Portal*,” Margaret McCormick, History Department and CBHP, Research Presentation at Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Conference, April, 2011

“History of Christianity in the Middle East: Cyberinfrastructure Project,” Margaret McCormick, Computer Based Honors Program, 2010-2011

“Syriac Manuscript Preservation,” Kim Kosta, Computer Based Honors Program, 2010 (Spring & Fall)

“East Syrian Evangelization Methods During the Tang Dynasty,” Susan Gorin, History Department, Research Presentation at Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Conference, April 15, 2010



**University of Alabama:**

“The Historical Memory of the Bar Kokhba Revolt and the Imagination of Israel,” Matthew MacKay, Honors Thesis, History Department, 2009-2010

“Aramaic Font Rendering for the Mac OS X,” Blake Basset, Computer Based Honors Program, 2009-2010

“Ancient Syriac Manuscript Preservation Project,” Kyle Redding, Computer Based Honors Program, Fall 2009

“Early Biblical Manuscripts and a Comparison of Armenian Depictions of the Adoration of the Magi in Illuminated Gospels,” Sarah E. Kelly, International Honors Program, Fall 2008

**References:**

Prof. Peter Brown (emeritus), History Department, Princeton University

Prof. Dame Averil Cameron (emerita), Theology Faculty, University of Oxford,

Prof. James Mixson, History Department, University of Alabama

Prof. J. Ross Wagner, Biblical Studies, Duke Divinity School

Prof. Robert Wuthnow, Department of Sociology, Princeton University