

Kevin T. van Bladel

Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations • Yale University

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Yale University	Professor of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations with secondary appointments in Classics and Medieval Studies	2017-present
The Ohio State University	Associate Professor and Department Chair of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures	2013-2017
USC	Associate Professor of Classics and Religion	2012-2013
USC	Director, Middle East Studies Program	2011-2013
USC	Associate Professor of Classics	2010-2012
New York University	Visiting Research Scholar, ISAW	Jan. 2008-June 2009
Institute for Advanced Study	Member, School of Historical Studies	Fall 2007
USC	Assistant Professor of Classics	2004-2010
Yale University	Lector of Arabic	2003-2004

EDUCATION

Yale University

Ph.D., Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, 2004
Dissertation awarded distinction and Horwitz Dissertation Prize
M.Phil., Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, 2001
Comprehensive exams completed with distinction

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Transferred from doctoral program in Classical Philology at UIUC to Yale program, 1997
M.A., Classics: Greek and Latin Languages, 1996
A.B., History: Ancient and Medieval, 1994

RESEARCH AREAS

- The Near East 200-1200
- Societies of late ancient Iran and Iraq
- Early Arabic scholarship
- Historical sociolinguistics

SELECTED HONORS

Offer of tenure as Professor of Classics and Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University, 2014: *declined*.
Visiting Research Scholar at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, NYU, Jan. 2008-June '09
Arnold L. and Lois S. Graves Award in the Humanities, Spring 2008
Membership and Residency at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, Fall 2007
National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend, 2007
USC General Education Course Development Award, 2007
Merit Award, Office of Dean of Research, USC 2006
Horwitz Dissertation Prize, Yale, 2004
Gorgias Press Grant for Syriac Studies, December 2002

BOOKS

1. *From Sasanian Mandeans to Šābians of the Marshes*, Leiden: Brill, 2017.

Reviewed by:

Jae H. Han, *Ancient Jew Review*, March 5, 2018:

<http://www.ancientjewreview.com/articles/2017/11/13/book-note-from-sasanian-mandeans-to-bians-of-the-marshes>

Jaakko Hämeen-Anttila, *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, 81.1 (2018): 128-129.

Predrag Bukovec, *Iran and the Caucasus* 22 (2018): 211-213.

James McGrath, *Reviews of the Enoch Seminar* 2019.01.01.

2. *The Arabic Hermes: From Pagan Sage to Prophet of Science*, New York & Oxford: Oxford University Press, July 2009.

Reviewed by:

Y. Tzvi Langermann in *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2010.02.63.

Sajjad H. Rizvi in *The American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* 20.2 (2010): 120-122.

Bink Hallum in *Ambix* 58.1 (2011): 78-81.

Hayrettin Yücesoy in *Journal of World History* 22.3 (2011): 597-601.

Christian H. Bull in *Numen* 59 (2012): 96-98.

Matteo Martelli in *NunciusNewsletter* (Museo Galileo) 4 (June 29, 2012):

http://www.museogalileo.it/en/newsletterslist/nunciusnewsletter_04_2012_eng/book_reviews_04_2012.html

Göran Larsson in *Journal of Semitic Studies* 49.1 (2014): 246-248.

Emily Cottrell in *Bibliotheca Orientalis* 72.3-4 (2015): 336-401.

Translated into Persian as: هرمس عربی: از حکیم کافرکیش تا پیامبر دانش

Hermes-e 'Arabī: az ḥakīm-e kāfer-kīš tā payāmbār-e dāneš, translated by Mohammad Meerzaei, Tehran:

Negāh-e Mo'āṣer, 2014.

Review of the Persian translation: *Ruznāme-ye E'temād* 3197 – 14/12/1393.

http://www.etemaad.ir/Default.aspx?NPN_Id=101&pageno=8#

Translation into Arabic underway, National Center for Translation, Egypt.

Translation of *The Arabic Hermes* into Turkish is under contract with OUP.

BOOK IN PREPARATION

The Evolution of the Persian Language: Social Change and Linguistic Change in Ancient History

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS (including submitted and forthcoming)

“Written Middle Persian literature under the Sasanids,” submitted to Paul Dilley and Katherine Tachau (eds.), for a volume to be published in DeGruyter’s *Studies in Manuscript Cultures* series (21,000 words).

“The Classical Near East,” submitted to Elizabeth Bolman, Scott Fitzgerald Johnson, and Jack Tannous (eds.), *The Byzantine Near East: A New History*, Cambridge University Press (7900 words).

“Arabicization, Islamization, and the Colonies of the Conquerors,” in Josephine van den Bent, Floris van den Eijnde, and Johan Weststeijn (eds.), *Late Antique Responses to the Arab Conquests*, Leiden: Brill, 2022, pp. 89-119.

- “The Language of the Xūz and the Fate of Elamite,” *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 31.3 (2021): pp. 447-462.
- “A Brief History of Islamic Civilization from Its Genesis in the Late Nineteenth Century to Its Institutional Entrenchment,” *Al-‘Usur al-Wusta: The Journal of Middle East Medievalists*, 28 (2020): 150-173.
- “Arabisering, islamisering en de kolonies van de veroveraars,” in Josephine van den Bent, Floris van den Eijnde and Johan Weststeijn (eds.), *Mohammed en de Late Oudheid*, published by the Zenobia Foundation, Hilversum: Verloren, 2018, pp. 159-187.
- “[Late Antique Literature in the] Languages of Arabia,” in Scott McGill and Edward Watts (eds.), *A Companion to Late Antique Literature*, 2018, 123-140.
- “The Arabic Reception of Late Antique Literature,” in Scott McGill and Edward Watts (eds.), *A Companion to Late Antique Literature*, 2018, 569-582.
- “Al-Bīrūnī on Hermetic Forgery,” *Gnosis: Journal of Gnostic Studies* 3, 2018, 54-66.
- “Zoroaster’s Many Languages,” in Shawkat Toorawa and Joseph Lowry (eds.), *Arabic Humanities, Islamic Thought: a Festschrift for Everett K. Rowson*, Leiden: Brill, 2017, 190-210.
- “Graeco-Arabic Studies in Classical Near Eastern Studies: An Emerging Field of Training in Its Broader Institutional Context,” in *Intellectual History of the Islamicate World* 3 (2015): 316-325.
- “Eighth-Century Indian Astronomy in the Two Cities of Peace,” in Asad Ahmed, Robert Hoyland, Behnam Sadeghi, and Adam Silverstein (eds.), *Islamic Cultures, Islamic Contexts: Essays in Honor of Patricia Crone*, Leiden: Brill, 2014, pp. 257-294.
- “The Arabic History of Science of Abū Sahl ibn Nawbakht (fl. ca 770-809) and Its Middle Persian Sources,” in David Reisman and Felicitas Opwis (eds.), *Islamic Philosophy, Science, Culture, and Religion: Studies in Honor of Dimitri Gutas*, Leiden: Brill, 2012, pp. 41-62.
- “The Bactrian Background of the Barmakids,” in *Islam and Tibet: Interactions along the Musk Routes*, ed. Anna Akasoy, Charles Burnett, and Ronit Yoeli-Tlalim, Ashgate, 2011, pp. 45-87.
- “Ephraem Syrus’ 18th and 19th Hymns on Julian Saba,” “Jacob of Serug’s Letter to the Monks at Sinai,” and “Sa’īd ibn al-Bīṭrīq on the foundation of the monastery at Sinai,” invited translations of and commentaries on Syriac and Arabic texts in: Daniel Caner, *History and Hagiography from the Late Antique Sinai*, Translated Texts for Historians, Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2010, pp. 203-210, 242-245, and 280-282.
- “The *Alexander Legend* in the Qur’an 18:83-102,” in *The Qur’an in its Historical Context*, ed. Gabriel Reynolds, Routledge, 2008, pp. 175-203.
- Translated into Arabic as:**
 “Khurāfat al-Iskandar fī l-Qur’ān: sūrat al-kahf 18:83-102,” in *Al-Qur’ān fī muḥīṭihī t-tārīkhī*, trans. Sa’dallāh al-Sa’dī, Beirut/Baghdad: Manshūrāt al-jamal, 2012, pp. 263-302.
- “Heavenly Cords and Prophetic Authority in the Quran and its Late Antique Context,” *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 70/2 (2007): 223-246.
- “The Syriac Sources of the Early Arabic Narratives of Alexander,” in *Memory as History: The Legacy of Alexander in South Asia*, ed. Himanshu Prabha Ray and Daniel T. Potts, New Delhi: Aryan International, 2007, pp. 54-75.

“The Iranian Characteristics and Forged Greek Attributions in the Arabic *Sirr al-asrār* (*Secret of Secrets*),” *Mélanges de l’Université Saint-Joseph* 57 (2004 [2005]): 151-172.

“Sources of the Legend of Hermes in Arabic,” in Paolo Lucentini, Ilaria Parri, and Vittoria Perrone Compagni (eds.), *Hermetism from Late Antiquity to Humanism / La Tradizione Ermetica dal Mondo Tardo-Antico all’Umanesimo: Atti del Convegno internazionale di studi, Napoli, 20-24 novembre 2001*, *Instrumenta Patristica et Mediaevalia: Research on the Inheritance of Early and Medieval Christianity* 40, Turnhout, Brepols, 2004, pp. 285-293.

ARTICLES IN REFERENCE WORKS

“Gnosticism,” in *Encyclopaedia of Islam Three*, Leiden, Brill, 2017-4, pp. 82-86.

“Barmakids,” in *Encyclopaedia of Islam Three*, Leiden, Brill, 2012-3, pp. 32-38.

“Iranian Hellenism” in *The Classical Tradition*, ed. Anthony Grafton, Glenn Most and Salvatore Settis, Harvard University Press, 2010, pp. 476-477.

“Syriac Hellenism,” in *The Classical Tradition*, ed. Anthony Grafton, Glenn Most and Salvatore Settis, Harvard University Press, 2010, pp. 908-909.

“Hermes Trismegistus,” in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome*, edited by Michael Gagarin, New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009, vol. 3, pp. 412-414.

“Hermes and the Hermetica,” in *Encyclopaedia of Islam Three*, Leiden, Brill, 2009-3, pp. 182-186.

“Bayt al-ḥikma,” co-authored with Dimitri Gutas, in *Encyclopaedia of Islam Three*, Leiden, Brill, Part 2009-2, pp. 133-137.

EDITORIAL REVIEW

Co-editorial review with Shawkat Toorawa: Mario Kuzah (ed. and trans.), Abū Rayḥān al-Bīrūnī, *The Yoga Sūtras of Patañjali*, Library of Arabic Literature, New York University Press, 2020.

BRIEF ARTICLES IN REFERENCE WORKS

in *Encyclopedia of Ancient Natural Scientists: The Greek Tradition and Its Many Heirs*, ed. Paul T. Keyser and Georgia L. Irby-Massie, New York, Routledge, 2009.

-Abiyūn al-Bitrīq

-Ahrun ibn-A‘yan al-Qass

-Anqīlāwas

-Arabic Translations (of Greek scientific works not extant in the original)

-Epaphroditos (Meteor.)

-al-Ḥārith ibn-Kalada al-Thaqafī

-Paulos (Music.)

-Pseudo-Apollōnios of Tuana

EXHIBITION CATALOGUE ARTICLES

“The Translation Movement in Abbasid Baghdad,” forthcoming in *Baghdad: Exhibition at the Museum of Islamic Art on the Occasion of the World Cup 2022*, 2500 words.

“L’Hermès arabe,” in *Alexandrie la Divine* (catalogue of exhibition at Fondation Martin Bodmer, 5 April to 31 August 2014), 2 vols., ed. Charles Méla and Frédéric Möri, Geneva: La Baconnière, 2014, vol. 2, pp. 883-885.

O B I T U A R Y

“‘With All Good Wishes’: Remembering Patricia Crone (1945-2015),” with Karen Bauer, Bella Tendler Krieger, and Deborah Tor, *al-‘Usur al-Wusta* 23 (2015): 218-226.

R E V I E W S

Review: Stephen J. Shoemaker, *The Apocalypse of Empire: Imperial Eschatology in Late Antiquity and Early Islam*, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018, in *Studies in Late Antiquity* 4.1 (2020): 133-136.

Review: de Blois, François, *Arabic, Persian and Gujarati Manuscripts: The Hamdani Collection*, London: I.B. Tauris, 2011, in *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 75.3 (2012): pp. 567-568.

Review: Swain, Simon (ed.), *Seeing the Face, Seeing the Soul: Polemon’s Physiognomy from Classical Antiquity to Medieval Islam*, with contributions by George Boys-Stones, Jaś Elsner, Antonella Ghersetti, Robert Hoyland, Ian Repath, and Simon Swain, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007, in *Aestimatio: Critical Reviews in the History of Science* 5 (2008 [2010]): 224-232.

Review: Anna Akasoy, James E. Montgomery, and Peter E. Pormann (eds), *Islamic Crosspollinations. Interactions in the Medieval Middle East*, Gibb Memorial Trust, Exeter, Short Run Press, 2007, in *Journal of Islamic Studies* 20.2 (2009): 266-269.

Review: Florian Ebeling, *The Secret History of Hermes Trismegistus: Hermeticism from Ancient to Modern Times*, Cornell University Press 2007, in *Aestimatio: Critical Reviews in the History of Science* 4, 2007, 110-116, online at http://www.ircps.org/publications/aestimatio/pdf/Volume4/2007-06-02_vanBladelBW.pdf

Review: François de Blois and Nicholas Sims-Williams (eds), *Dictionary of Manichaean Texts, Volume II: Texts from Iraq and Iran (Texts in Syriac, Arabic, Persian, and Zoroastrian Middle Persian). Corpus Fontium Manichaeorum: Subsidia*. Turnhout: Brepols, 2006, in *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 17.4 (2007): 466-468.

Review: Hélène Condylis-Bassoukos, *Stéphanitès kai Ichnélatès, traduction grecque (XI siècle) du livre Kalīla wa-Dimna d’Ibn al-Muqaffa’ (VIII siècle). Étude lexicologique et littéraire*. [Académie Royale de Belgique. Classe des Lettres. Fonds René Draguet, 11.] Peeters 1997, in *Journal of Arabic Literature*, 37.3 (2006): 453-457.

Review: Richard Jasnow and Karl-Th. Zauzich, *The Ancient Egyptian Book of Thoth: A Demotic Discourse on Knowledge and Pendant to the Classical Hermetica. Volume 1: Text. Volume 2: Plates*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2005, in *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, 19 May 2006, online at <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/bmcr/2006/2006-05-19.html>.

Review: Gotthard Strohmaier, *Hellas im Islam: Interdisziplinäre Studien zur Ikonographie, Wissenschaft und Religionsgeschichte*, Diskurse der Arabistik 6, Harrassowitz, 2003, in *Journal of Islamic Studies* 16.3 (2005): 407-409.

Review: Nadia Maria El Cheikh, *Byzantium Viewed by the Arabs*, Harvard Middle Eastern Monographs, 36. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2004, in *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, 19 December 2004, online at <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/bmcr/2004/2004-12-19.html>.

Review: *The Astrological History of Abu Ma'shar*, 2 vols., ed. and trans. Keiji Yamamoto and Charles Burnett, E.J. Brill, 2000, in *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 123 (2003): 442-443.

COURSES TAUGHT (Yale) 2017-present

Lecture / Discussion / Seminar

Ancient Empires (*introduction to the history and cultures of Iran, Iraq, Syria, Armenia, and Afghanistan from Cyrus to Muhammad*), Fall 2018, Summer 2020, Summer 2021
 Ancient and Medieval Astronomy: From Akkadian to Greek to Arabic to Latin (*on the history and practice of pre-Copernican astronomy and astrology*), Fall 2017
 Historical Sociolinguistics of the Ancient World, Spring 2021
 History of the Arabic Language, Spring 2019, Fall 2021
 Indo-European Linguistics, Fall 2017
 The Islamic Near East from Muhammad to the Mongol Invasion, Spring 2022
 Sasanian Seminar, Spring 2019, Fall 2021 (*source-intensive graduate introduction to research on the Sasanian Kingdom*)

Languages / Text Readings

Arabic Translations of Ancient Greek Scholarship (Arabic Seminar), Spring 2020
 Early *Adab* (Arabic Seminar), Fall 2018
 Early New Persian for Arabists, Spring 2022
 Manichaean Middle Persian & Parthian, Fall 2020
 Middle Persian (inscriptional and Zoroastrian), Spring 2020
 Old Persian, Spring 2018, Summer 2021
 The Qur'an and Its Early Historical Context (Arabic Seminar), Spring 2021
 Reading Classical Arabic Scholarship (*survey of early Arabic sciences and their technical terminology through the Kitāb Mafātīḥ al-ʿulūm of al-Xwārazmī*), Spring 2018

COURSES TAUGHT (OSU) 2013-2017

Lecture / Discussion / Seminar

Ancient Empires (*introduction to the history and cultures of Iran, Iraq, Syria, Armenia, Afghanistan from Cyrus to Muhammad*), Autumn 2016
 History of the Arabic Language (*seminar for graduate students and undergraduate Arabic majors*), Autumn 2015
 Introduction to the Field of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (*for beginning graduate students and graduating seniors with majors in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures*), Autumn 2015, Autumn 2016
 Religions of Ancient Iran (*graduate seminar*), Autumn 2015

Languages / Text Readings

Arabic Readings (*independent formal tutorials in reading classical Arabic, for credit*), Autumn 2016 (x2), Spring 2017 (x2)
 Manichaean Middle Persian and Parthian (*introduction to the languages, the Manichaean religion, and numerous readings from Turfan manuscripts*), Spring 2014, Summer 2017 (intensive)

Old Persian, Summer 2016 (*intensive*)
 Syriac Language and Culture I (*grammar and introduction to reading*), Autumn 2014, Autumn 2016
 Syriac Language and Culture II (*readings from Peshitta, Persian martyr acts, madrashe of Ephraem, the Chronicle of Edessa, The Book of the Laws of the Countries*), Spring 2015, Spring 2017
 Zoroastrian Middle Persian, Spring 2016

C O U R S E S T A U G H T (U S C) 2004-2013

- Classes ranging in size from 3 to 300 students

Lecture / Discussion / Seminar

Ancient Empires (*introduction to the history and cultures of Iran, Iraq, Syria, Armenia, Afghanistan from Cyrus to Muhammad*), Fall 2009, Fall 2010, Fall 2011, Fall 2012
 Approaches to Antiquity (*graduate seminar on the history and theory of classical scholarship, introduction to research tools and manuscript research*), Spring 2011
 Arts and Letters: Ancient Wisdom Literature and Folklore (*using Greek, Aramaic, Sanskrit, and Russian sources*), Spring 2007
 Arts and Letters: How to Be a Medieval Philosopher (*reading a formal medieval curriculum of the works of Aristotle and related texts: logic, theoretical & ethical philosophy*), Fall 2004
 Classical Arabic Literature (*in translation*), Spring 2006, Fall 2011
 Classical Mythology (*Babylonian, Greek, Roman, and Iranian*), Spring 2005, Fall 2005
 The Traditions of Astrology, Alchemy, and Magic (*graduate seminar*), Spring 2005

Language / Text Readings / History of Languages

Ancient Greek 1, Fall 2004, Fall 2005, Fall 2009
 Ancient Greek 2, Spring 2006
 Ancient Greek 3 (*readings in historical and philosophical prose, introduction to Greek meter*), Fall 2006
 Avestan Language and Zoroastrian Scriptures (*a course in reading Young Avestan with extensive readings on Zoroastrianism*), Spring 2013
 Comparative Historical Grammar of Greek and Latin, Fall 2006 (*taught as Indo-European Linguistics*)
 Old Persian Language and Culture, Spring 2007
 Syriac Language and Culture 1, Fall 2010 (*covering the grammar and introduction to reading*)
 Syriac Language and Culture 2, Spring 2011 (*students read from Old Syriac Gospels, the Chronicle of Edessa, the Life of Symeon Stylites, and Jacob of Serug "On the Fall of the Idols"*)

C O U R S E S T A U G H T (Y a l e) 2001-2004, as Acting Instructor and then Lector of Arabic

Introduction to Classical Arabic, Spring 2004
 Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic, two separate year-long classes, Fall 2003-Spring 2004
 Intensive Elementary Standard Arabic, Summer 2002
 Intensive Introduction to Syriac, Summer 2001
 Elementary Syriac, Fall 2000-Spring 2001
 Classical Syriac Historiography, Fall 2001
 Theological and Literary Texts in Syriac, Spring 2002

COURSES TAUGHT (Other)

Intensive two-week Syriac masterclass at Cornell University, by invitation of the Department of Near Eastern Studies, June 2008
 Classical Mythology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Summer 1995

LANGUAGES TAUGHT IN UNIVERSITY COURSES

Arabic, Avestan, ancient Greek, Early New Persian, Middle Persian, Old Persian, Parthian, Syriac

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

- “Written Literature in the Kingdom of the Sasanids,” invited presentation to the University of Oxford, May 20, 2021 (via teleconference).
- “The Survival of the Sasanian Dari Language,” 231st Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, March 14, 2021 (via teleconference).
- “On the Origins of New Persian,” invited presentation to the Invisible East Programme at the University of Oxford’s Oriental Institute, August 27, 2020 (via teleconference).
- “Syriac and the Persian Kingdom of the Sasanids,” invited lecture to Beth Mardutho: The Syriac Institute, New Jersey, July 31, 2020 (via teleconference).
- “The Ancient Greek Classics between Western Civilization and Islamic Civilization” invited lecture for Yale Young Global Scholars Connect, July 29, 2020 (via teleconference).
- “Before and After Dimitri Gutas’ *Greek Thought, Arabic Culture*,” invited lecture at Columbia University, February 21, 2020.
- “The Reshaping of Persian after the Seventh-Century Arabian Conquest and Colonization,” invited lecture at the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies, University of Michigan, October 21, 2019.
- “Elagabalus and Syriac,” North American Syriac Symposium IX, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, June 17, 2019.
- “Iranian Languages of Post-Sasanian Iran,” paper delivered to conference *Ērānšahr in Transition: West and Central Asia: Between the Sasanians and Islam, 600-750 CE*, Princeton University, May 11, 2019.
- “The Language of the Xūz,” 229th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Pittsburgh, March 16, 2019.
- “The First Institution of Islamic Civilization: Chicago, 1956,” invited paper delivered to the symposium *Fifty Years after Marshall Hodgson and the Idea of a Discernible Islamic Civilization*, held by the Yale Law School, November 9, 2018.
- “Western Iranian Words in Tenth-Century Arabic Sources,” 228th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Pittsburgh, March 18, 2018.
- “An Episode in the Genesis of the Persian Language,” invited lecture at The Ohio State University, March 5, 2018.

- “Arabic Notices on the Earliest New Persian Poetry,” 227th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, March 17, 2017.
- “The Six Manuscript Traditions of the Sasanian Kingdom,” invited lecture at the University of Iowa, February 3, 2017.
- “Written Middle Persian Literature under the Sasanids,” invited lecture at conference “Iran between the Sasanians and Early Islam,” held in Jerusalem jointly at the Hebrew University and the Van Leer Institute, December 13, 2016.
- “The New Persian Language of the Arab Colonists in Colonial Islamic Khurasan,” invited lecture at Yale University, October 17, 2016.
- “New Light on the Early Mandaeans,” invited lecture at University of Texas at Austin, April 27, 2016.
- “Sasanian Orality Revisited,” invited presentation at conference “After Alexander: Classical Texts in Arabic, Persian, and Armenian,” hosted by the University of Michigan, April 18, 2016.
- “The Advent of Islam and the Attrition of Ancient Religions,” invited lecture to the Center for the Study of Religions, The Ohio State University, April 7, 2016.
- “An Arabic Account of the Mandaeans and Their Language *circa* 900,” 226th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Boston, March 20, 2016.
- “Ibn al-Muqaffa’ on the Bactrian Language among the ‘Abbāsid Armies,” 226th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Boston, March 18, 2016.
- “The Salvage of the Ancient Past through the Arab Conquest and Arabicization,” keynote lecture at the 10th Zenobia Foundation Conference, on “Mohammed and the End of Antiquity,” Amsterdam, November 14, 2015.
- “Persian Divergent in the Eastern Arab Colonies,” Leiden University Centre for the Study of Islam and Society, Leiden, November 13, 2015.
- “The Kentaeans, an Iraqi ‘Šābian’ Sect of Sasanian Origins,” 225th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, New Orleans, March 16, 2015.
- “Persian Origins in Arab Colonies of Marw and Transoxania,” invited lecture at One-Day Colloquium in Honor of Patricia Crone, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, February 25, 2015.
- “Middle Persian Literacy and Scholarship in Sasanian Iran,” invited lecture at the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago, December 3, 2014.
- “The Earliest Translation from Sanskrit to Arabic in the Big Picture,” invited lecture at the Université de Lausanne, Switzerland, October 21, 2014.
- “Graeco-Arabic Studies, Late Antiquity, and Iranian Studies,” invited lecture at the international conference “Graeco-Arabica: Present State and Future Prospects of an Emerging Field,” Yale University, April 27, 2014.
- “Al-Bīrūnī on Hermetic Forgery,” 224th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Phoenix, March 15, 2014.

- “The Other Šābians,” invited presentation at “Islam and its Past: Jahiliyya and Late Antiquity in the Qur’an and Tradition,” a one-day conference honoring the scholarship of Patricia Crone with the award of the Levi Della Vida Medal, UCLA, October 28, 2013.
- “The Sciences in Sasanian Iran,” invited lecture at Princeton University, Department of Classics, October 17, 2013.
- “Hermes Trismegistus on the Date of the Prophet Muḥammad’s Birth,” 223rd Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Boston, March 15, 2013.
- “India, China, and the Roots of Arabic Astronomy in the Eighth Century,” invited lecture at The Ohio State University, February 14, 2013.
- “Eighth-Century Indian Astronomy in the Two Cities of Peace,” invited lecture at “Connected Worlds” conference, University of California, Berkeley, January 26, 2013.
- “The *Sunna* of the Philosophers in the Works of Abu Bakr al-Razi,” Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association, Talk/Oral Presentation, Seattle, January 2013.
- “An Inventory of the Arabic Hermetica: Problems and Prospects,” invited lecture at the first Colloquium of the Committee for the Study of Late Antiquity, “Hermetica: New Approaches to the Text and Interpretation of the *Corpus Hermeticum*,” Princeton University, May 18, 2012.
- “The Limits of Islamic Civilization,” plenary session at the 222nd Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Boston, March 18, 2012.
- “The History of the Zoroastrian Scriptures from Dēnkard IV in an Arabic Paraphrase circa 800 CE,” 222nd Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Boston, March 17, 2012.
- “Revelations of Science and Philosophy in Early Arabic Islamic Thought,” invited lecture at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago, April 6, 2011.
- “The Language of Rayy in the Tenth Century,” 221st Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Chicago, March 13, 2011.
- “Ramifications of Historical Astrology in Early Arabic,” Workshop on Late Antique and Early Islamic Intellectual History, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, UCLA, February 22, 2011.
- “Pre-Adamism in Early Arabic,” invited presentation at the Workshop on Pre-Adamism and Historical Astrology, Institute for Advanced Study, February 15, 2011.
- “Ancient Astrology, Greek Chronography, and Early Arabic Historiography,” invited lecture, Washington University in St. Louis, December 9, 2010.
- “The Role of Astrologers in Early Arabic Historiography,” invited lecture, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, NYU, December 6, 2010.
- “Arabic Testimonies Concerning Western Iranian Dialects,” Eighth Biennial Iranian Studies Conference, Santa Monica, May 30, 2010.
- “A Hermetic Tradition in the Dating of Muhammad’s Birth,” invited seminar at the University of Chicago, February 10, 2010.

“The Astrological Current in Early Islamic Historiography,” invited lecture at the University of Chicago, February 9, 2010.

with Martin Mulso: “The Legacy of Historical Astrology: Praeadamites, Horoscopes of Religion and Natural Prophecy from Sixth-Century Persia to Seventeenth-Century Europe” at Islamic Freethinking and Western Radicalism, a conference at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, April 22, 2008.

“The Chronological Contents of the Thousands of Abū Ma‘shar,” presented at the 218th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Chicago, March 15, 2008.

“Sasanian Irredentism and the History of Science,” Oxford Centre for Late Antiquity, Oxford, February 11, 2008.

“The Syro-Iranian Cosmology of Cosmas Indicopleustes,” presented at the 139th Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association, January 5, 2008.

“Greek, Syriac, and Arabic Chronography,” invited lecture at Cornell University, November 27, 2007.

“The Prophecy of Dhu l-Qarnayn,” at biennial conference “The Qur’an: Text, Interpretation, and Translation,” School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, November 8, 2007.

“Arabic Historiography and the Astrologers,” presentation at the Institute for Advanced Study, Colloquium of the School of Historical Studies, November 5, 2007.

“Balkh and the Barmakids,” invited lecture at UCLA, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, April 20, 2007.

“Barmakid Patronage of Early Translations from Sanskrit into Arabic,” presented at the 217th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, San Antonio, March 17, 2007.

“The Bactrian Background of the Barmakids,” invited lecture delivered at “Tibet and Islam,” a conference at the Warburg Institute, University College London, November 18, 2006.

“Arabic-Greek Multilingualism, 8th-10th centuries,” invited presentation at Round Table on Multilingualism in the Middle East during the First Millennium, Christ Church, Oxford, September 25, 2006.

“Heavenly Gateways and Conduits in the Qur’an,” presented at the 216th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Seattle, March 18, 2006.

“Alexander the Great in the Qur’an,” invited lecture at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Program in Medieval Studies, September 13, 2005.

“A Babylonian Tradition in Medieval Arabic and Persian Histories,” invited lecture at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Program of South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, September 13, 2005.

“Elagabalus in Light of Aramaic Sources,” invited lecture at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of Classics, September 12, 2005.

“Astral Omens according to Hermes,” invited lecture at Harvard University, May 12, 2005.

“The Syriac Apocalypse of Alexander the Great in the Qur’an,” invited lecture at “Towards a New Reading of the Qur’an,” Notre Dame University, April 3, 2005.

- “Iranian and Sanskrit Characteristics and Forged Greek Attributions in the Arabic *Sirr al-asrar* of Pseudo-Aristotle,” 215th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Philadelphia, March 21, 2005.
- “Introduction to the Arabic Hermetica,” invited lecture at Reed College, March 6, 2005.
- “Prognostications at the Rising of Sirius in Late Antiquity,” 136th Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association, Boston, January 7, 2005.
- “Hermes Trismegistus in Sasanian Iran,” invited presentation delivered to PENATES (SoCal Late Antique Studies group), UCLA, December 4, 2004.
- “The Wise Sayings of the Arabic Hermes,” 214th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, San Diego, March 14, 2004.
- “Arabic Philhellenism and Greek Literary Tradition,” invited lecture at the University of Southern California, February 2, 2004.
- “Using Arabic Translations to Understand Greek Philosophy and Science,” 135th Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association, San Francisco, January 4, 2004.
- “The Syriac ‘Correspondence of Pebechius and Oson,’” North American Syriac Symposium IV, Princeton, July 11, 2003.
- “The *Sirr al-asrār* (*Secretum Secretorum*) and *Kitāb fī s-siyāsa al-‘āmmīya*,” invited seminar presentation at conference on “The Greek Strand in Islamic Political Thought,” Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, June 24, 2003.
- “The Question of a Platonic School at Harran,” International Society for Neoplatonic Studies, New Orleans, June 7, 2003.
- “The Arabic ‘Dream of Ostanēs,’” 213th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Nashville, April 5, 2003.
- “New Light on the Religious Background of Elagabalus, Aramaean Emperor of Rome,” 134th Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association, New Orleans, January 6, 2003.
- “The Arabic Hermetica and the Question of their Origins,” Yale Arabic Colloquium (2-hour seminar), Yale University, New Haven, December 11, 2002.
- “The Eighth-Century Islamic Conquest of Afghanistan in Light of the Bactrian Documents,” 36th Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Washington, DC, November 25, 2002.
- “Pseudo-Aristotle and Hermes Trismegistus in Arabic and Latin Texts,” 20th Annual Medieval Studies Graduate Student Conference, Yale University, New Haven, October 16, 2002.
- “Minority Religions in the Middle East,” invited lecture at Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies, New Haven, May 16, 2002.
- “Hermetic Literature and Translations in Late Antiquity,” 7th Annual UCLA Graduate Late Antiquity Conference, Los Angeles, April 6, 2002.
- “The Sources of Abu Ma‘shar’s Legend of Hermes,” 212th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Houston, March 22, 2002.

“Sources and History of the Hermes Legend in Arabic,” Convegno Internazionale sulla Tradizione Ermetica dal Mondo Tardo-Antico all’Umanesimo, Naples, Italy, November 23, 2001.

“Ancient Greek Chronographic Sources in Arabic Histories,” 211th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Toronto, Canada, March 31, 2001.

“Changing Perspectives on the Historical Role of Syriac,” 17th Annual Medieval Studies Graduate Student Conference, Yale University, New Haven, April 17, 1999.

PANEL CHAIRMANSHIPS, DISCUSSIONS, AND RESPONSES

Discussant for panel on “Women in Syriac studies,” North American Syriac Symposium IX, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, June 18, 2019.

Discussant for panel on “Science” at the Fourteenth Conference of the School of Abbasid Studies, New Haven, July 14, 2018.

Panelist/discussant for “Byzantine Exceptionalism: Reality or Historiographical Fiction?” at the annual meeting of the Ohio Academy of History, March 31, 2017.

Panel organizer and chair for panel “Iranian Inner Asia,” 226th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, March 18, 2016.

Invited respondent to second day of 2-day UCLA-UC Irvine workshop, “Beyond the Bamiyan Buddhas: Archaeology and History in the Modern and Ancient Persianate World,” November 9, 2012.

Invited respondent to Luke Treadwell, “Persian and Arabic in the 9th-10th Centuries,” at “Language and Class: Multilingualism and H/L Language Varieties,” Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, NYU, March 25, 2008.

Invited discussant at “The Materialistic Worldview from Late Antiquity to Islam,” a colloquium at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, May 6-10, 2007.

Invited chairman for panel “Greek and Persian elements in ninth-century Arabic literary culture,” at the 217th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, San Antonio, March 17, 2007.

Invited discussant at “Natives as Members of Imperial and Post-Imperial Elites: Apologetics and ‘Shu‘ubiyya’ in Hellenism and Islam,” Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, May 1-3, 2006.

Invited respondent to Mohsen Zakeri, “Greek and Middle Persian Wisdom Literature,” at conference on “The Greek Strand in Islamic Political Thought,” Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, June 24, 2003.

REVIEW OF PUBLICATIONS AND GRANT PROPOSALS

2015-: Annual evaluator of selected applications to the Institute for Advanced Study

2016-2019: Member of editorial board of *Studies in Late Antiquity* (University of California Press)

2021: One article for *Arabica*

2020: One article for *Iranian Studies*; one article for *Maarav*; one article for *Oriens*; one article for *Les Annales Islamologiques*

2019: Editorial review of one book for NYU Press

- 2018: One book proposal for NYU Press; one book proposal for Cambridge University Press; one article for *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*; one research proposal to Research Foundation - Flanders (Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek - Vlaanderen, FWO)
- 2017: One volume for NYU press; one article for *Aramaic Studies*; one article for *Intellectual History of the Islamicate World*
- 2016: One article for *The Journal of Late Antiquity*; one grant proposal for Leverhulme Trust (UK)
- 2015: One volume for Brill; one article for *Der Islam*; two articles for *Journal of the American Oriental Society*
- 2014: One article for *Asiatische Studien/Études asiatiques*
- 2011: One volume for Princeton University Press; one volume for Routledge
- 2007: One article for *Bulletin for the History of Medicine*
- 2006: One article for *International Journal for the Classical Tradition*

DISSERTATION SUPERVISION

Principal Advisor / Advising Committee Chair

- Yale: Advising Committee Chair for **Kayla Dang**, PhD Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, 2022.
- OSU: Doctoral advisor and dissertation supervisor for **Clint Hackenburg**, PhD Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, 2015. Dissertation: “Voices of the Converted : Christian Apostate Literature in Medieval Islam.” (Dr. Hackenburg was a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at Denison University. He is a teacher of theology and history at Convent & Stuart Hall, San Francisco.)
- USC: Doctoral advisor and dissertation supervisor for **Dina Boero**, PhD Classics, 2015. Dissertation: “Symeon and the Making of the Stylite: The Construction of Sanctity in Late Antique Syria.” (Dr. Boero is Assistant Professor of Ancient Mediterranean History at The College of New Jersey.)

Committee Member or Co-Advisor

- Yale: Dissertation committee member for **Geoffrey Moseley**, PhD Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, 2017. Dissertation: “Plato Arabus: On the Arabic Transmission of Plato’s Dialogues, Texts and Studies.” (Dr. Moseley was Visiting Assistant Professor in Religious Studies at Sewanee-University of the South and Visiting Scholar in Religious Studies at Vanderbilt. He teaches at Deerfield Academy.)
- OSU: Dissertation co-supervisor (with Sean Anthony) for **Ryan Schaffner**, PhD Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, 2016. Dissertation: “The Bible through a Qur’ānic Filter: Scripture Falsification (Taḥrīf) in 8th- and 9th-Century Muslim Disputational Literature.” (Dr. Schaffner was a post-doctoral fellow in Religious Studies at the University of Virginia.)
- USC: Dissertation co-supervisor (with Claudia Moatti) for **Hamish Cameron**’s thesis in Classics, “Constructing a Borderland: Roman Imperial Geographic Writers on Mesopotamia from the 1st to 4th Centuries CE,” 2014. (Dr. Cameron is Lecturer in Classics at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.)
- USC: Extra-departmental committee member for **Sarah Ouwayda**’s thesis in Linguistics, “Where Number Lies,” on the syntax of plurality based on data from Lebanese Arabic, Western Armenian, Persian, and other languages, 2013. (Dr. Ouwayda is a post-doctoral fellow in Linguistics at the University of Geneva.)
- USC: Committee member for **Kristina Meinking**’s thesis in Classics, “Anger Matters: Politics and Theology in the Fourth Century CE” (on Lactantius’ *De ira dei*), 2010. (Dr. Meinking is Associate Professor of Classical Languages at Elon University.)

- USC: Committee member for **Phillip Horky**'s thesis in Classics, "Plato's Magnesia and Philosophical Politics in Magna Graecia," 2007. (Dr. Horky is Associate Professor in Classics and Ancient History and the Centre for the Study of the Ancient Mediterranean and Near East and Co-director of the Durham Centre for Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (DCAMP) at Durham University, UK.)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE : YALE

2021-present	Director of Graduate Studies, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations
2020-2021	Interim Chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations
2018-2020	Director of Graduate Studies, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations (on leave Fall 2019)
2018-2022	Archaia Steering Committee (on leave Fall 2019)
2018-2019	Course of Study Committee

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2018-2021	Inner Asia section chair, American Oriental Society
2017-2018	Nominating committee member, American Oriental Society