**Nicolò Sassi**

Curriculum Vitae et Studiorum

Assistant Professor of Early Christianity

Saint Louis University

Department of Theological Studies

Adorjan Hall, 3800 Lindell Boulevard

St. Louis, Missouri 63108-3414

nicolo.sassi@slu.edu

**Academic Positions**

2022 - present Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Early Christianity, Department of Theological Studies, Saint Louis University

2021 - 2022 Assistant to the Director of the Medieval Studies Institute, Indiana University - Bloomington

2018 - 2021 Associate Instructor, Religious Studies Department, Indiana University - Bloomington.

**Education**

Education

2022 **PhD**, Religious Studies, Indiana University – Bloomington

2016 **MA**, Sciences of Religions, Università degli Studi Roma Tre, Rome, Italy

2014 **MA**, Music Performance, Conservatorio Santa Cecilia, Rome, Italy

2014 **BA**, Philosophy, Università degli Studi Roma Tre, Rome, Italy

Supplementary Training

2018 **Summer School in Syriac Language and Palaeography**, Dumbarton Oaks (Harvard University)/HMML, Collegeville, Minnesota

2017 **Summer School in Byzantine Palaeography and Epigraphy**, Monastery of St. John the Theologian, Patmos, Greece

2015-2016 **1-year course on Aramaic** as *hospes laicus,* Pontificio Istituto Biblico, Rome, Italy

Field Work

2019 Patmos, Greece, Monastery of St. John the Theologian, (June): manuscript research on *Patmiacus* 51, containing a ninth century version of the writings of Pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite.

2019 London, UK, British Library, (August): manuscript research on *Add*. 7189, containing a thirteenth-century version of Pseudo-Hierotheos’ *Book of Secrets*.

2017 Patmos, Greece, Monastery of St. John the Theologian, (July): manuscript research on *Patmiacus* 51, containing a ninth century version of the writings of Pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite.

**Publications**

**Peer-reviewed Research Articles and Book Chapters**

2022 “On *De Mystica Theologia* I 997 A. Rhetorical Strategies as Technologies of Mystagogy in Pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite”, *Medioevo Greco* 22 (2022), 123-132 (accepted; forthcoming September 2022).

2021 “Towards a New Edition of the *Book of Hierotheos*”, *Studia Patristica* 125, 157-163.

2019 “The *Corpus Areopagiticum* and the *Book of the Holy Hierotheos”*, *Bisanzio nello spazio e nel tempo. Costantinopoli e la Siria. Atti della XIV Giornata di Studi dell’AISB (Roma, Pontificio Istituto Orientale, 10-11 novembre 2017)*, a cura di S. Ronchey e F. Monticini, Roma, *Orientalia Christiana Analecta* 307, 197-217.

2019 “Intertextuality, Isiac Features, and the shaping of the Sacred Feminine in *Trimorphic Protennoia* (NHC XIII, 1)”, *Studia Orientalia Electronica* 7, 82-95.

2018 “Le fonti del lessico teologico delle Epistole dello Pseudo-Dionigi Areopagita”, *Lexicon Philosophicum* 6, 69-115.

2017 “Le fonti del lessico teologico del *De Mystica Theologia* dello Pseudo-Dionigi Areopagita”*, Textual Cultures* 11.1-2, 130-171.

2016 “Mystical Union as Acknowledgment: Pseudo-Dionysius’ Account of *Henosis*”, *Greek, Roman and Byzantine Studies* 56.4, 771-784.

**Book-length Translations**

2021 S. Ronchey, *Hypatia. The True Story.* 268 p. (Italian to English; De Gruyter, Berlin-New York 2021).

**Book Reviews**

2020 M. Edwards, *Aristotle and Early Christian Thought*, *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 28.1, 159-161.

2019 G. Mushayabasa, *Translation Technique in the Peshitta to Ezekiel 1-24: A Frame Semantics Approach*, *Symposia. The Journal of Religion* 10, 52-53.

**Teaching**

**Primary Instructor**

(Responsible for all aspects of teaching including syllabus design, lecturing, assignments creation, and grading)

Fall 2022 Rise of Christianity, St. Louis University ( - students)

Spring 2021 Medieval Imagination, Indiana University – Bloomington (10 students)

Spring 2020 Intro to the New Testament, Indiana University – Bloomington (30 students)

Fall 2019 Forgotten Christianities, Indiana University – Bloomington (21 students)

Spring 2013 Nietzsche’s *Genealogy of Morals*, Liceo Gelasio Caetani, Rome, Italy (40 students)

**Associate Instructor**

(Responsible for teaching weekly discussion sessions, guest-lecturing several times throughout the semester, and grading)

Fall 2020 Intro to the New Testament, Indiana University – Bloomington (75 students)

Fall 2018 Intro to the New Testament, Indiana University – Bloomington (75 students)

**Associate Instructor**

(Responsible for guest-lecturing several times throughout the semester and grading)

Spring 2019 Intro to Old Testament/Hebrew Bible, Indiana University – Bloomington (60 students)

**Conference Presentations and Invited Talks**

2022 **Invited**. *Stories to Join Heaven and Earth. Circulation of Tales Along the Incense Route*, Department of Theological Studies, Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, MO.

2021 **Invited**. *Gli animali nell’immaginario medievale*, Alumni Lecture, Università degli Studi Roma Tre, Rome, Italy, November 2021.

2021 **Participant.** *Storytelling as a Form of Religious Knowledge. On the Migration of Early Byzantine Hagiographical Tales to Ethiopia,* International Conference “Storyworlds in Collections: Toward a Theory of the Ancient and Byzantine Tale (2nd Century CE–7th Century CE)”, University of Cyprus, Nikosia, Cyprus, November 2021.

2021 **Participant**. *Are Images a Form of Theological Discourse? On the Use of Allegory in Late Ancient Syriac Mystical Literature*, “Amassing Perspectives: Current Trends in Syriac Iconography”, Princeton University, September 2021.

2021 **Participant.** *The End of the World Happens Within. The Mystical Eschatology of the Syriac Book of Secrets (6th c.)*, Congreso Internacional “La escatología medieval”, Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, Spain, July 2021 (online due to Covid-19 outbreak).

2021 **Participant**. *How Manuscript Evidence Troubles the Notion of Strong Authorship. The Case of the Book of Hierotheos*, “Tracing Christians in Global Late Antiquity”, University of Iowa/Global Late Antiquity Society, June 2021 (online due to Covid-19 outbreak).

2021 **Participant**. *The Secret Life of Eastern Christian Manuscripts. The Case of the Syriac Book of Secrets*, Medieval Academy of America 2021 meeting, Bloomington, Indiana, April 2021 (online due to Covid-19 outbreak).

2020 **Participant.** *The Forgotten History of Origenism in Medieval Syria*, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, November 2020 (online due to Covid-19 outbreak).

2020 **Invited**. *Da Bisanzio all’oriente cristiano. L’agiografia bizantina, siriaca, ed etiopica a confronto,* Università degli Studi di Genova, Italy, October 2020 (online due to Covid-19 outbreak).

2020 **Participant.** *How Manuscript Evidence Troubles the Notion of Strong Authorship. The Case of the Book of Hierotheos*, 50th North American Patristic Society Conference, Chicago, May 2020. (Conference Cancelled because of the Covid-19 outbreak)

2020 **Participant**. *Hidden Springs of Intellectual and Human Growth. The Transformative Potential of Medieval Mystical Literatures*, 55th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 2020.(Conference Cancelled because of the Covid-19 outbreak)

2019 **Participant.** *Towards a New Edition of The Book of the Holy Hierotheos*, 18th International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford, UK, August 2019.

2019 **Participant.** *The Incense Route. Migrations of Lives of Saints and the Sources of the Ethiopian Synaxarion*, “On the Road: Travels and Travelers in the Middle Ages” XXXIst annual Spring International Symposium of the Medieval Studies Institute (MEST) at Indiana University at Bloomington, March 2019.

2019 **Participant.** *The Textual Ways of Religious Promiscuity. A Theological Controversy, Editorial Practices, and the shaping of Religious Belonging in Sixth Century Syria*, “Jews, Christians, and Muslims: Rethinking Belonging in Late Antiquity and the Medieval Period”, Indiana University at Bloomington, January 2019.

2018 **Participant.** *The Crossroads of Byzantium. Syncretism in Byzantine Literature (XIth-XIIIth c.),* 53rd International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 2018.

2018 **Participant.** *Literature as Vehicle of Syncretism: the Case of the Byzantine Bodhisattva*, AAR MidWest Region conference, Muncie, Indiana, March 2018.

2018 **Participant.** *The Migration of a Manichaean Myth in the* Book of the Holy Hierotheos, I conference of the EUARE (European Academy of Religion), Bologna, Italy, March 2018.

2017 **Invited.** *Congregavit nos in unum: il* Corpus Areopagiticum *e il* Libro di Ieroteo *di Stefano Bar Sudaili*, “Bisanzio nello spazio e nel tempo. Costantinopoli, la Siria” XIV giornata AISB 2017 at Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome, Italy, November 2017.

2017 **Participant**. *The Antique Present of Byzantium. Challenging the Medievality of the Byzantine Empire*, “Questioning Scale: Re-Thinking Historical Units” Paul Lucas Conference, History Department, Indiana University at Bloomington, October 2017.

2017 **Participant.** *Antiquarianism and Literary Memory in Eustathius of Thessalonika’s* Exegesis in Canonem Iambicum Pentecostalem, “Uses of the Past: Cultural Memory in and of the Middle Ages” XXIXth annual Spring International Symposium of the Medieval Studies Institute (MEST) at Indiana University at Bloomington, March 2017.

**Selected Research and Teaching Awards and Grants (all on a competitive basis)**

2021 Indiana University – Bloomington Religious Studies Department Travel Grant

2021 Carl Ziegler Award for Teaching Excellence, Collins Living-Learning Center, Indiana University - Bloomington

2021 Dumbarton Oaks (Harvard)/Hill Museum & Manuscript Library Advanced Syriac and Syriac Paleography Summer School Fellowship

2020 American Academy of Religion Travel Grant

2020 Indiana University – Andrea McRobbie Fellowship in Medieval Social History, Medieval Studies Institute

2020 Indiana University – Bloomington Religious Studies Department Teaching Excellence Award

2019 Indiana University – College of Arts and Sciences Travel Grant

2019 North American Patristic Society Travel Grant

2018 Indiana University – Bloomington College of Arts & Sciences Travel Grant

2018 Indiana University, Shirley Jean Cox Medieval Studies Conference Travel Fund, Medieval Studies Institute

2018 Dumbarton Oaks (Harvard)/Hill Museum & Manuscript Library Syriac and Syriac Paleography Summer School Fellowship

2018 Indiana University – Bloomington Religious Studies Department Travel Grant

2018 European Academy of Religion Travel Grant, Bologna, Italy

2017 Indiana University – Bloomington Religious Studies Department Travel Grant

2017 Indiana University – Bloomington College of Arts & Sciences Graduate Fellowship

2017 Indiana University – Bloomington CAHI Graduate Conference Travel Award

2016 – 2017 Indiana University – Bloomington Ancient Studies Graduate Fellowship

2016 – 2021 Indiana University – Bloomington Religious Studies Graduate Scholarship-Doctoral

2009 *Palmes académiques*: award released by the Italian section of A.M.O.P.A. (*Association des membres de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques*) to the best foreign students of French language and culture, Rome, Italy

**Community Outreach**

**Invited lecture.** *Byzantium: History, Art, and Religion*, invited lecture at the Institute for European Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington in collaboration with the Western Lifelong-Learning Center of Western New Mexico University in Silver City, NM, November 2018.

**Professional service**

**Committee Member for BA Honors Thesis.** Levi Gettleman (Jewish Studies/Folklore), “Mapping and Enacting Holiness in Jewish Antiquity”, Spring-Fall 2021.

**Conference Convener.** *Jews, Christian, Muslim. Rethinking Belonging in Late Antiquity and the Medieval Period*, Indiana University Bloomington, January 2019.

**Panel Convener.** *At the Gate of Byzantium. Literature as Network of Religious Contamination in the pre-modern Christian East*, I conference of the EUARE (European Academy of Religion), Bologna, Italy, March 2018.

**Organizer.** Interdepartmental reading group in Byzantine Greek, Indiana University Bloomington, Fall 2020-Spring 2021.

**Professional Affiliations**

North American Patristic Society

American Academy of Religion

Global Late Antiquity Society

**Languages**

**Proficiency** (I can read, understand, and speak the following languages):

*a) Italian*

*b) English*

*c) French*

*d) Modern Greek*

**Reading and Comprehension** (I can read and translate texts written in the following languages):

*a) Spanish*

*b) Portuguese*

*c) Catalan*

*d) Occitan*

*e) German*

*f) Judaeo-Spanish*

*g) Galician*

**Philological Skills** (I can read and translate texts written in the following ancient and medieval languages):

*a) Biblical Hebrew*

*b) Greek (Classical, Koiné, Medieval)*

*c) Latin (Classical, Medieval)*

*d) Aramaic (Syriac, Targumic, Imperial/Biblical)*

*e) Coptic (Sahidic)*

**References**

Jeremy M. Schott, PhD (doctoral advisor) Constance Furey, PhD

Professor, Indiana University Bloomington Professor, Indiana University Bloomington

[jmschott@indiana.edu](mailto:jmschott@indiana.edu) [cfurey@indiana.edu](mailto:cfurey@indiana.edu)

Jason S. Mokhtarian, PhD Silvia Ronchey, PhD

Associate Professor, Cornell University Professor, Università degli Studi Roma Tre

[jmokhtarian@cornell.edu](mailto:jmokhtarian@cornell.edu) [silvia.ronchey@uniroma3.it](mailto:silvia.ronchey@uniroma3.it)