

Dr. Roshan J. Abraham

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. 2009. Classical Studies. University of Pennsylvania.

M.A. 2009. Classical Studies, University of Pennsylvania.

B.A. 2002. with distinction. English Literature, Classical Languages. University of Kansas.

EMPLOYMENT

2019 – present. First-Year Advisor/AUx Instructor, American University.

2017 – present. Scholar-in-Residence, Department of Philosophy and Religion, American University.

2017 – 2019. Adjunct Professor, Department of Religious Studies, George Mason University.

2018. Adjunct Professor, Department of Theology, Georgetown University.

2009 – 2016. Assistant Professor, jointly appointed in Department of Classics and Program Religious Studies, Washington University in St. Louis.

2008 – 2009. Critical Writing Fellow, University of Pennsylvania.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Early Christianity; Greco-Roman Religions; Magic in the Ancient World; Greek Prose of Early Christianity, Late Antiquity, and the Second Sophistic; Theory and Method in the Study of Religion; Religion and Popular Culture.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Religious Heritage of the West (Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020)

Meaning and Purpose in the Arts (Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019)

Magicians, Mystics, Saints, and Scholars (Fall 2018)

GEORGE MASON

Human Religious Experience (Spring 2017, Spring 2018).

Religion and Literature (Spring 2019)

GEORGETOWN

Magicians, Healers, and Holy Men (Fall 2018)

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Religious Studies

Thinking About Religion (Fall 2012, Fall 2014, Fall 2015).

Introduction to the New Testament (Fall 2010, Fall 2011, Spring 2015).

Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion (Spring 2010).

Early Christianity and Classical Culture (Fall 2009, Spring 2016).

Senior Seminar: Pilgrimage and Sacred Space in Antiquity (Spring 2010, Spring 2012).

Freshman Seminar: Magicians and Witches in Ancient Literature (Fall 2012).

Magicians, Healers, and Holy Men (Spring 2010, Spring 2011, Spring 2012, Spring 2015).

Ancient Greek

- Topics in Greek Literature: Ancient Religion (Fall 2011).
Directed Reading in Greek: Apostolic Literature (1 Clement, Origen, *Contra Celsum*, selections) Fall 2009.
New Testament Greek: Paul and Pauline Literature, Fall 2010.
Introduction to Greek Literature: Plato's *Apology*. (Fall 2009, Fall 2014).

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA (AS INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD)

- Freshman Critical Writing Seminar: Apuleius' *Golden Ass*. (Fall 2008, Spring 2009).
Intensive Intermediate Greek. (Summer 2007).
Intensive Elementary Greek. (Summer 2009).
Elementary Latin I. (Fall 2004).
Elementary Latin II, (Spring 2005).
Intermediate Latin: Vergil's *Aeneid*. (Spring 2006).

THESES AND DISSERTATION COMMITTEES.

2014. Andrew Findley (PhD, Art History), "A Monumental Province: Asia and the Temples of the Roman Empire," reader.
2010. Travis Proctor (BA, Religious Studies). Demonology and Philosophy in Justin Martyr, *1 Apology*.
2010. Jessica Spencer (BA, Religious Studies). Sexual Ethics in *1 Corinthians*.
2012. Aaron Mace (BA, Classics). Old Age in Vergil's *Aeneid*. (reader)
2010. Elizabeth Pfohl (BA, Ancient Studies). Ancient Love Magic. (reader)
2010. Natacha Lam (BA, Classics). Alexander the Great. (reader)
2010. Max Rosen (BA, Classics): Ancient Medicine. (reader)

SENIOR PROJECTS AND OTHER STUDENT ADVISING

2013. Jessica Kapustiak (BA, Religious Studies). Rhetoric and Polemic in Irenaeus.
2011. Kaitlyn Judge (BA, Classics). Digital commentary on Philostratus' *Life of Apollonius*.
2011. Arvind Mirayala. (BA, Classics). Acts of Paul and Thecla.
2010. Hans Bork (MA, Classics), Jacob Marks (BA, Classics), and Kaitlyn Judge (BA, classics): awarded Digital Humanities Workshop Fellowship to assist in development of a digital edition and commentary of Philostratus's *Life of Apollonius*. This developed into a senior project for Kaitlyn Judge.

PUBLICATIONS

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

2014. "The Geography of Culture of Philostratus' *Life of Apollonius of Tyana*," *Classical Journal* 109.4: 465-480.

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

2017. "Biography of a 'Pagan' Saint: Apollonius of Tyana," in S.I. Johnston, ed. *Religion: Narrating Religion*. Part of the Macmillan Interdisciplinary Handbooks: Religion series. Farmington Hills, MI: Macmillan Reference USA, 2017.

2015. "Apollonius of Tyana," "Second Sophistic," "Neoplatonism," "Plotinus," "Porphyry," and "Iamblichus," *Routledge Encyclopedia of Ancient Mediterranean Religions*. Eric Orlin, general editor. Approx. 1500 words total.

BOOK REVIEWS

2014. Review of Moyer, Ian S. *Egypt and the Limits of Hellenism* (Cambridge University Press, 2011). *CJ-Online* 2014.11.13.

<http://cj.camws.org/sites/default/files/reviews/2014.11.13%20Abraham%20on%20Moyer.pdf>

2012. Review of Perrin, Nicholas, *Jesus the Temple* (Baker Academic, 2010), *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2012.05.43 <http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2012/2012-05-43.html>.

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

2015. Professor of the Month (April), Chi Omega Sorority. (nominated by students in Spring 2015 "Intro to New Testament" and Spring 2015 "Magicians, Healers, and Holy Men" courses)

2013. "Webby" Award, Best Use of Social Media. (awarded for development and administration of Classics Department Facebook page)

2011. Sony Electronics Scholarship Award. (awarded for *Life of Apollonius* digital commentary)

2010. Faculty Appreciation Award, Washington University Women's Volleyball. (nominated by students in Fall 2009 "Early Christianity and Classical Culture" and Fall 2010 "New Testament Greek" course).

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

2009. Penn Prize for Excellence in Graduate Teaching. (nominated by students in Fall 2008 Freshman Critical Writing Seminar).
2008. Critical Writing Fellowship.
2008. Best Poster, Penn-Leiden Colloquium on Ancient Values V, 6-8 June.
- 2003-2008. Benjamin Franklin Fellowship.
- 2002-2003. Mellon Fellowship for Humanistic Studies, (DECLINED).

INVITED TALKS

2019. "Modern Comics Reimagine the Biblical Flood: From Caveman Noah to Sci-Fi Utopias," Day Lecture, University of Alabama, Department of Religious Studies. 15 October.
2010. "Divination and Divinization in the Greek Magical Papyri," University of Kansas, Department of Classics, 6 May.
2010. "Education and Authority in a (post)-colonial context," Apuleius and Africa, International Conference hosted at Oberlin College, 29 April to 2 May.
2010. "Apollonius of Tyana: Between Magic and Religion," invited lecture at Illinois-Wesleyan, Department of Greek and Roman Studies, Ides Lecture Series, 15 January.

CONFERENCES PAPERS

2015. "Philostratus, prognōsis, and the alternatives to divination," Society of Classical Studies Annual Meeting, 9 January.
2011. "Where Wisdom Leads Me: The Travels of Apollonius of Tyana," Panel on the Journey in Ancient Mediterranean Religions, Greco-Roman Religions Group, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, 20 November.
2008. "Apollonius of Tyana and Cosmopolitan Kinship," Penn-Leiden Colloquium on Ancient Values V: Valuing Others in Antiquity, Leiden University, 6-8 June.
2007. "Travelers to an Antique Land: Imperialism, Ethnography, and Cultural Identity in Philostratus' *Life of Apollonius of Tyana*," Bryn Mawr Graduate Student Symposium, To The Ends of the Earth: Journeys Ancient and Modern, 12-13 October.
2007. "Human, All Too Human: Elephants and Greeks in Philostratus' *Life of Apollonius of Tyana*," University of Pennsylvania Graduate Student Conference, *Animals in Antiquity*. 10 February.

OTHER CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

2019. Respondent, Religious Competition in Late Antiquity/Religion and Philosophy in Late Antiquity Joint Session on Astrology and Mysticism. Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, 23 November.

2019. Respondent, Religion and Philosophy in Late Antiquity Seminar, Society of Biblical Literature, 24 November.
2018. Panelist, Preparing for the Job Market: Navigating Contingent Faculty Positions. Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. 19 November
2015. "Textuality and Orality in Ps-Eusebius's *Contra Hieroclem*," presentation for spring meeting of St. Louis Christianity in Antiquity Workshop. 21 March.
2012. Moderator, "Jews in a Gentile World: Identity, Theology, History," Hellenistic Judaism Panel, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, 19 November.
2011. "Magic and Mysticism: Contested Terms, Material Objects, and Charismatic Figures," The Ohio State University, 24-25 February. (invited attendee)

CAMPUS TALKS

2011. "The Meanings of Travel in Philostratus' *Life of Apollonius of Tyana*," Washington University in St. Louis Classics Colloquium, 9 November.
2010. "Divination and Divinization in the Greek Magical Papyri," Washington University in St. Louis Classics Colloquium, 15 March.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Editorial Board, Religion and Comics Series, Claremont Press.
- Co-chair/Co-founder. Religion and Philosophy in Late Antiquity Seminar, Society of Biblical Literature. 2017-present
- Co-founder/Co-organizer. St. Louis Christianity in Antiquity Workshop. (2014-2016)
- Mnemosyne* (referee)
- Cambridge University Press (referee)

DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

RELIGIOUS STUDIES PROGRAM

- Director, Religious Studies Senior Symposium. (2010, 2012).
- Organizer, Weltin Lecture in Early Christianity. (2009-2016)

CLASSICS DEPARTMENT

- Webmaster, Department of Classics. (2010-11)
- Faculty Advisor, Eta Sigma Phi. (2009-15)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- Freshman Reading Program, Discussion Leader. (2015; 2014; 2010; 2009)
- Faculty Associate, Wayman Crow Residential College. (2010-11)
- Faculty Mentor, Merle King Undergraduate Honors Fellowship:
 Jessica Kapustiak (2010-2013)
 Travis Proctor (2009-2010)

OTHER

Consultant, National Geographic Magazine (2010 Special Edition, “Sacred Journeys”; 2014 Special Edition, “Apostles”).

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT / OUTREACH

2016. “Religion and Comic Books: A Tangled Web,” Hold That Thought podcast. 30 March 2016. <https://thought.artsci.wustl.edu/podcasts/religion-comics>
2014. Mentor. Mason Sharon (7th grade), “Influence of Greek Mythology on Modern Culture,” semester long project at Wydown Middle School, St. Louis, MO.
2014. “Sages and Saints: Holy Men in the Greco-Roman and Early Christian Worlds,” The Classical Series at Forest Park, co-hosted by St. Louis Classical Club and Oasis Adult Education. 8 February.
2013. “Mythology and Comics,” presentation for Comics University, hosted by Star Clipper (comic book and pop culture merchant), St. Louis, 11 July.
2013. “The Many Lives of Apollonius of Tyana,” Hold That Thought: Peoples, Places, and Ideas, episode 4, Washington University College of Arts & Sciences, 4 February. (podcast) <https://thought.artsci.wustl.edu/podcasts-people-places-and-ideas-explore/articles/159>
2011. “Magicians, Healers, and Holy Men,” series of four invited public lectures at Kirkwood First Presbyterian, Kirkwood, MO, 6, 13, 20, & 27 February.
2011. Moderator, “Religion and Spirituality in the Modern World,” Washington University Religious Pluralism Week, 21 February.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Society for Biblical Literature, 2008-present.
- Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religion, 2011- 2016.
- North American Patristics Society, 2009-2016.
- Society for Classical Studies (formerly American Philological Association), 2004-2016.

REFERENCES

- Daniel Bornstein, Stella K. Darrow Professor of Catholic Studies, Washington University in St. Louis. Department of History and Program in Religious Studies. dbornste@wustl.edu. 314-935-7279 (office)
- Beata Grant, Professor of Chinese and Religious Studies. Washington University in St. Louis. bgrant@wustl.edu. (on sabbatical 2016-7, but can be reached by email)
- Tim Moore, John and Penelope Biggs Distinguished Professor of Classics. Washington University in St. Louis. tmoore26@wustl.edu 314-935-6618. (office)
- Annette Reed, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, University of Pennsylvania. 201 Cohen Hall, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6304. reedanne@sas.upenn.edu

Peter Struck, Associate Professor of Classical Studies. University of Pennsylvania. 201 Cohen Hall,
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6304. struck@sas.upenn.edu