

## Michael Philip Penn

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Department of Religion  
Mount Holyoke College  
50 College Street  
South Hadley, MA 01075

### Education

Ph.D. Department of Religion, Duke University, September, 1999.

Dissertation: "‘With a Chaste and Closed Mouth’: Ritual Kissing, Social Boundaries, and Early Christian Communities." Committee: Elizabeth Clark (Director), Bart Ehrman, Dale Martin, Jean O’Barr, Orval Wintermute.

M.A. Department of Religion, Duke University, September, 1996.

Graduate Certificate, Program in Women’s Studies, Duke University, September, 1995.

A.B. Department of Molecular Biology, *cum laude*, Princeton University, May, 1993.

Thesis: "The Biological Images Project: Using Computers to Help Teach Biology."

### National Awards

National Humanities Center Grant to Co-Organize "Late Antiquity at 40" Conference (2010)

John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship (2007)

National Humanities Center Fellowship (2007)

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship (2007)

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Research Fellowship (2005)

Nominee, American Academy of Religion Best First Book Award (2005)

Alternate, American Council for Learned Studies Fellowship (2005)

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar Grant (2004)

American Academy of Religion Research Assistance Grant (2004)

Wabash Center Summer Research Grant (2004)

Wabash Center Grant for Summer Workshop on Teaching and Learning (2004)

United States Information Agency Fellowship for *Cairo, City of Islam* Program (1999)

Finalist, Woodrow Wilson/Charlotte Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship (1999)

Goethe Institute Fellowship for Summer German Study (1995)

### University Awards

Faculty Research Grants, Mount Holyoke College (2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003)

Faculty Research Assistant Grants, Mount Holyoke College (2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006)

Faculty Fellowships, Mount Holyoke College (2008, 2006)

Library and Informational Technologies Grant, Mount Holyoke College (2004)

Kraft-Hiatt Postdoctoral Fellowship, Brandeis University (2001)

Finalist, Princeton Society of Fellows Postdoctoral Fellowship (2000)

Jean O’Barr Teaching Endowment Award, Duke University (1998)

Margaret Taylor Smith Teaching Endowment Award, Duke University (1997)

J.B. Duke Doctoral Fellowship, Duke University (1993)

### Languages

Coptic, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Latin, Syriac

### Professional Organizations

American Academy of Religion, Society of Biblical Literature, North American Patristics Society

### **Publications (Books)**

*The Pseudo-Clementine Epistles on Virginity: Introduction, Text, and Translation* (Piscataway: Gorgias Press, Forthcoming) [co-authored with Lucas Van Rompay].

English translation of Ruben Duval, *Traite de Grammaire Syriaque* (Piscataway: Gorgias Press, Forthcoming) [co-authored with Maria Doerfler and Adam McCollum].

*Kissing Christians: Ritual and Community in the Late Ancient Church* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005).

### **Publications (Articles)**

"Reconsecrating a Defiled Church: A Medieval Syriac Ritual and its Later Modifications" *Parole de l'Orient* 35 (Forthcoming 2010).

"God's War and His Warriors: The First Hundred Years of Syriac Accounts of the Islamic Conquests" in *Just Wars, Holy Wars, and Jihads: Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Encounters and Exchanges* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010).

"Addressing Muslim Rulers and Muslim Rule" *Oriens Christianus* (2010): 73-87.

"Moving Beyond the Palimpsest: Erasure in Syriac Manuscripts" *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 18.2 (Summer, 2010): 261-303.

"A Temporarily Resurrected Dog and Other Wonders: Thomas of Marga and Early Christian/Muslim Encounters" *Medieval Encounters* 16:2 (Summer, 2010): 209-242.

"Piety and the Pumice Stone" *Studia Patristica* 45 (2010): 197-201.

"The Composition of the Qenneshre Fragment" in *Aramaic in Post-Biblical Judaism and Early Christianity* (Winona Lake, Indiana: Eisenbrauns, 2010), 33-48.

"Monks, Manuscripts, and Muslims: Syriac Textual Changes in Reaction to the Rise of Islam" *Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies* 12.2 (Summer, 2009): 235-257.

"A New Introduction, Edition, Translation, and Commentary of *John and the Emir*" *Le Muséon* (June, 2008): 83-109.

"Kissing, Purity, and Early Christian Social Order" *Studia Patristica* 39 (2006): 87-92.

"Syriac Sources for Early Christian/Muslim Relations" *Islamochristiana* 29 (2003): 59-78.

"Ritual Kissing, Heresy, and Early Christian Orthodoxy" *Journal of Ecclesiastical History* (November, 2003): 625-640.

"Identity Transformation and Authorial Identification in *Joseph and Aseneth*" *The Journal for the Study of Pseudepigrapha* 13 (2002): 171-183.

"Performing Family: Ritual Kissing and the Construction of Early Christian Kinship" *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 11 (Summer, 2002): 151-174.

"'Bold and Having No Shame': Ambiguous Widows, Controlling Clergy, and Early Syrian Communities" *Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies* 4.2 (Summer, 2001): 155-181.

"Introduction and Translation of Shenoute's 'On the Piety of Women'" *Coptic Church Review* 16 (Spring, 1995): 26-29.

### **Publications (Book Reviews, Entries, Reports, Review Articles)**

Book reviews in *Review of Biblical Literature* (2), *Church History* (2), *National Women's Studies Association Journal*

"Nonnus of Nisibis," "Athanasius of Balad," "Julian of Halicarnasus" in *Encyclopedic Dictionary of the Syriac Heritage* (Piscataway: Gorgias Press: Forthcoming 2010).

"The Great Isaiah Scroll" *Art Forum* (June, 2008).

Research Report on *Imaging Islam in Religious Studies News* (January, 2007).

"Counter Factual Essay," "One Source Social History," "Taking a Stand" in *Teaching the Bible: Practical Strategies for Classroom Instruction* (Atlanta: Scholars Press, 2005).

Conference Report of "Aramaic in Post-Biblical Judaism and Early Christianity" in *Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies* (July, 2004).

"Der Kuß" in *Die Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2001), 1907-1908.

"Feminist Pedagogy as Praxis" *Duke Journal of Gender Law & Policy* 4 (Spring, 1997): 217-219.

### **Invited Lectures**

- "Muslims, Manuscripts, and Syriac Christianity." University of Michigan, February 2009.  
"Syriac Accounts of the Islamic Conquests." Providence College, December 2008.  
"The Ethics of Erasing in Manuscript Culture." University of Glasgow, July 2008.  
"Beyond the Palimpsest." Duke University, February, 2008.  
"Syriac Christian Reactions to the Rise of Islam." University of Richmond, February, 2008.  
"Erasure in Syriac Manuscripts." University of Tennessee, October, 2007.  
"Demonic Martyrs." University of Pennsylvania, January, 2007.  
"Syriac Christian Perspectives on Islam." Williams College, November, 2006.  
"Kissing and the Origenist Controversy." University of Toronto, December 2005.  
"Ritual Kissing and Early Christian Distinction." Amherst College, December, 2003.

### **Interviews**

- "Christian-Muslim History Not All Hostile" by Rich Barlow in *The Boston Globe*  
"Pucker Up" by Martin Marty in *The Christian Century*  
"Kiss and Tell the Gospel" by Bethany Pledge in *Christianity Today On-Line*  
"Ritual Kissing Key for Early Christians" by Rich Barlow in *The Boston Globe*  
"Evolution of the Kiss" by Ronni Gordan in *The Springfield Republican*

### **Conference Presentations**

- "Marking Heresy." North American Patristics Conference. May, 2010.  
"How to Tell a Heretic When You Read One." MARCO Manuscript Workshop. February, 2010.  
"Feminist Pedagogy." What Does it Mean to Be an Educated Woman. October, 2009.  
"God's War and His Warriors." Just Wars, Holy Wars, and Jihads. October, 2008.  
"Monks, Manuscripts, and Muslims." North American Patristics Conference. June, 2008.  
"Partial Analysis." MARCO Manuscript Workshop, February, 2008.  
"Piety and the Pumice Stone." 15<sup>th</sup> Oxford Patristics Conference. August, 2007.  
"Arabs, Muslims, and Islam in the *Book of Governors*." Syriac Symposium 5. June, 2007.  
"Beyond Add and Stir: Teaching Syriac Christianity." Dorushe Syriac Conference. February, 2006.  
"Possession and Polemic in the *Qenneshre Fragment*." North American Patristics Conference. June, 2005.  
"When Demons Go Bad." NEH Faculty Seminar. July, 2004.  
"Christianity, Jewish Scripture, and the Islamic Conquests." Society of Biblical Literature. November 2003.  
"Syriac Responses to the Islamic Conquests." American Academy of Religions. November, 2003.  
"Ritual Kissing, Purity, and Early Christianity." 14<sup>th</sup> Oxford Patristics Conference. August, 2003.  
"Syriac Explanations for the Islamic Conquests." Interdisciplinary Approaches to Islam. University of Miami. February, 2003.  
"What I Wish I Knew Then." Panelist, Society of Biblical Literature. November, 2002.  
"Ritual Kissing, Social Boundaries, and Early Christian Communities." Poster Session, Society of Biblical Literature. November, 1999.  
"Kissing, Group Cohesion, and Early Christian Communities." American Academy of Religion. November, 1998.  
"Kissing, Eroticism, and Gender Hierarchies in Early Christian Communities." Duke University Women's Studies Research Conference. November, 1998.  
"The Consequence of Online Discussion for Constructs Studies." Panelist, American Academy of Religion. November, 1997.  
"Widows, the *Didascalía* Community, and the Consolidation of Power." Woman as Widow: Historical Perspectives in Pre-Industrial Societies. May, 1997.  
"Hippolytus's Bodies." Duke Women's Studies Graduate Research Conference. January, 1997.  
"Praxis as Polemic: The Valentinian Chrism Ritual." Society of Biblical Literature. November, 1996.  
"Imaging Inscriptions." Society of Biblical Literature. November, 1994.

### **Teaching Interests**

Early Christianity, New Testament, Hebrew Scripture, Church History, Early Judaism, Islam  
Gender Studies, Ritual Studies, Methodology in Religious Studies

### **Associate Professor (2008-Present), Assistant Professor (2002-2008), Mount Holyoke College**

"Early Christianity in Iran and Iraq" (Fall 2010)  
"Early Christian/Muslim Relations" (Spring 2010)  
"Sex and the Early Church" (Fall 2009, Spring 2007, Spring 2004)  
"Introduction to the Hebrew Scripture" (Springs 2007, 2005, 2004, 2003)  
"Introduction to the New Testament" (Fall 2010, Spring 2010, Falls 2006, 2004, 2003, 2002)  
"Early Christianity in Conflict" (Fall 2006, Fall 2002)  
"Women and Early Christianity" (Spring 2005)  
"Forging Early Christian Identities" (Fall 2004)  
"What Didn't Make It in the Bible" (Fall 2003)  
"Paul and His Earliest Interpreters" (Spring 2003)

### **Postdoctoral Fellow, Brandeis University (2001-2002)**

"Introduction to the New Testament" (Spring 2002)  
"Introduction to Christianity" (Fall 2001)

### **Visiting Assistant Professor, Haverford College (2000-2001)**

"Introduction to Christianity" (Spring 2001)  
"Forging Early Christian Identity" (Spring 2001)  
"Gender and Science" (Spring 2001)  
"Body, Sexuality, and Christianity" (Fall 2000)

### **Visiting Lecturer, Bryn Mawr College (2000)**

"Questioning Gender/Engendering Questions" (Fall 2000)  
"Gender and Science" (Spring 2000)

### **Instructor, Duke University (1998-1999)**

"Women, Sexuality, and the Christian Tradition" (Fall 1999, Spring 1999, Spring 1998)  
"Under Construction: Women's Bodies Ancient and Modern" (Fall 1998, Spring 1998)

### **Teaching Assistant, Duke University (1996-1998)**

"Introduction to the New Testament" (Spring 1998)  
"Introduction to the Old Testament" (Fall 1997)  
"Catholic Spirituality Through the Ages" (Spring 1997)  
"Introduction to Women's Studies" (Fall 1997)  
"Introduction to Church History" (Fall 1997, Fall 1996)

### **Secondary School Teacher (part-time, 1991-1999)**

Director of Forensics: Durham Academy High School, Durham, NC. I ran a nationally competitive high school debate team. (Spring 1994-Fall 1999)  
Debate Coach: Princeton High School, Princeton, NJ. (Fall 1991-Spring 1993)  
Debate and Speech Coach: Pinewood High School, Los Altos, CA. (Fall 1990-Spring 1991)

### **Additional Work History (part-time, 1987-1993)**

Apple Computer, Inc. Sunnyvale, CA. Software Engineer for Apple's Advanced Technology Group and Classrooms of Tomorrow divisions (Summers 1989-1993)  
Weizmann Institute, Rehovot, Israel. Recombinate DNA research (Summer 1989)  
Palo Alto Veterans Hospital, Palo Alto, CA. Immuno-cytochemistry (Spring 1989)  
Ames Research Center, NASA, Mt. View, CA. Electron microscopy (Fall 1987-Spring 1989)

**Academic Service**

National Endowment for the Humanities, Fellowship Adjudication Panel Member (Summer 2010)  
Co-Appointment in Mount Holyoke Gender Studies Department (Fall 2006-Spring 2008)  
Search Committee for Gender Studies pre- and post-doctoral fellowships (Fall 2006-Spring 2007)  
Faculty Appeals Committee (Fall 2006-Spring 2007)  
AAR Steering Committee "History of Christianity Section" (Winter 2004-Fall 2006)  
Faculty Grants Committee (Fall 2003-Spring 2005)  
Member Faculty Seminar: "Identities" (Fall 2003-Spring 2004)  
Chair Five College Biblical Studies Steering Committee (2003-2004, 2009-present)  
Critical Incident Response Team (Fall 2002-Fall 2004)  
Departmental Search Committee for Tenure Track Hire in Islam (Fall 2002-Winter 2004)  
Departmental Search Committee for Tenure Track Hire in Buddhism (Fall 2002-Spring 2003)  
Grant Administrator of Wabash Grant for Graduate Student Education (Fall 1998-Fall 1999)  
Reading Group Coordinator, Late Ancient Studies Reading Group (Fall 1997-Fall 1999)  
Assistant Square Supervisor, Duke Archeological Expedition, Israel (Summer 1995)