

Daniel J. Kimmel

501 Hall of Languages
Syracuse, NY 13244

(315) 443-3863
djkimmel@syr.edu

Education

Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

Doctor of Philosophy in Religion, Candidate/ABD.

Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Virginia Burrus

Dissertation Title: “Genealogies of Religion & Humanity in the *Divine Institutes* of Lactantius”

Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

Master of Philosophy in Religion, 2021.

Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA

Master of Arts, English, Literature and Social Justice, 2016.

Lebanon Valley College, Annville, PA

Bachelor of Arts, English and Religion, 2014.

Literature and Philosophy of Religion Specializations;

Minor, World Classics;

Summa Cum Laude & Departmental Honors.

Areas of Specialization and Research Interests

Late Ancient Christianity, Religion in the Roman Empire, Magic in Antiquity, Neoplatonism & Theurgy, Method & Theory in the Study of Religion.

Academic Presentations

“Platonism, Monotheism, and the Liturgy of Empire: Licinius’ “prayer to the supreme god” in Lactantius’ *On the Death of the Persecutors*.” To be presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting; Society of Biblical Literature Unit: Prayer in Antiquity. San Diego, CA. November 2024.

““There is nothing that is so much a matter of willingness as *religio*’: Slavery, Human Rights, and Religious Liberty in Lactantius’ *Divine Institutes*.” Presented at the North American Patristics Society 53rd Annual Meeting; Thematic Session: Reading Slavery into the Sources. Chicago, IL. May 2024.

“Platonism, Theurgy, and Lactantius’ *Divine Institutes*.” Presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting; Unit: Platonism and Neoplatonism; Thematic Session: One and Many in Plato and the Platonic Tradition: Varieties of Platonism. Denver, CO. November 2022.

“Written on ‘Empire’s Palimpsest’ Alone?: Religion and Justice in Lactantius’ *Divine Institutes*.” Presented at the North America Patristics Society 52nd Annual Meeting; Thematic Session: Apologetics in the Fourth Century. Chicago, IL. May 2022. *Nominated by the Syracuse University Faculty of Religion for the 2024 SU Mary Hatch Marshall Award.*

“Resignifying Religio(n): Lactantius and the *Divine Institutes*.” Presented at the North American Patristics Society 50th/51st Annual Meeting. Online. May 2021. *Awarded the NAPS 2021 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Prize.*

Certificates

Certificate of University Teaching, Syracuse University (Forthcoming 2024)

Teacher Development Program Certificate, Level II, Lehigh University (Spring 2015)

Teacher Development Program Certificate, Level I, Lehigh University (Fall 2014)

LVC Interfaith Certificate, Lebanon Valley College (Spring 2014)

Language Proficiencies

Latin, Ancient Greek, French, German

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record, Religion Department, Syracuse University

- Ancient Magic in the Greco-Roman World
- Greco-Roman Religion

Teaching Assistant/Guest Lecturer, Religion Department, Syracuse University

- Greco-Roman Religion, Dr. Virginia Burrus
- Ancient Greek Religion, Dr. Virginia Burrus
- Saints & Martyrs in Christian Tradition, Dr. Virginia Burrus
- The Bible in History, Culture, and Religion, Dr. James Watts
- Christianity, Dr. Marcia Robinson
- Judaism, Dr. Zachary Braiterman
- Mythologies, Dr. Joanne Punzo Waghorne
- Religions of the World, Dr. Joanne Punzo Waghorne

Teaching Fellow (Instructor), English Department, Lehigh University

- Introduction to Composition, Literature, and Rhetoric I
- Introduction to Composition, Literature, and Rhetoric II

Professional Activities & Service

President of the Graduate Student Body & Chief Executive Officer, Graduate Student Organization, Syracuse University (2023-2024; 2024-2025)

Graduate Representative, Syracuse University Statement of Academic Freedom & Free Expression Task Force, Syracuse University (Spring 2024)

Vice President of Internal Affairs & Chair of the Senate, Graduate Student Organization, Syracuse University (2021-2022; 2022-2023)

Steering Committee Member, Platonism and Neoplatonism Unit of the American Academy of Religion (2022-Present)

Co-President, Religion Graduate Organization, Syracuse University (2019-2020; 2020-2021; 2021-2022)

Admissions Representative, Religion Graduate Organization, Syracuse University (2021-2022)

Graduate Representative, Vice Chancellor, Provost, and Chief Academic Officer Search Committee, Syracuse University (Spring 2021)

University Senator, Graduate Student Organization, Syracuse University (2018-2019; 2019-2020; 2020-2021)

Academic Honors & Awards

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, Syracuse University (Spring 2024)

Graduate University Fellowship, Syracuse University (2022-2023)

North American Patristics Society Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Prize (2021)

Theta Alpha Kappa National Honor Society for Religious Studies and Theology, Syracuse University Theta Chi Beta Chapter (Spring 2020)

Martha U. Peiffer and Dr. Harold S. Peiffer '42 Award for Highest GPA in Religion, Lebanon Valley College (Spring 2014)

Dr. George R. Struble Memorial Award for Highest GPA in English, Lebanon Valley College (Spring 2014)

National Undergraduate Achievement Award of Theta Alpha Kappa (Spring 2014)

Phi Alpha Epsilon Scholarship Society of Lebanon Valley College (Spring 2014)

Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society (Spring 2013)

Theta Alpha Kappa National Honor Society for Religious Studies and Theology, Lebanon Valley College Chapter (Spring 2013)

Gold Community Service Award, for 100 hours of Community Service, Lebanon Valley College (Spring 2012)

Pallas Society, National Honor Society on Social Justice, Lebanon Valley College (Spring 2012)

Professional Associations

The North American Patristics Society (2020-Present)

The American Academy of Religion (2021-Present)

Center for European Studies, Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs at Syracuse University, Graduate Research Associate (2023-Present)

Middle Eastern Studies Program, Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs at Syracuse University, Graduate Research Associate (2023-Present)

Comprehensive Doctoral Exams

Field: “Method and Theory in the Study of Religion.” Drs. M. Gail Hamner & Joanne Punzo Waghorne. (May 2019)

Methodological Concentration: “Texts & Contexts: Historiography, Performativity, Rhetoric.” Drs. William Robert & Virginia Burrus. (October 2020)

Region/Tradition: “Religions of the Classical and Late Ancient Mediterranean, 500 BCE to 500 CE.” Dr. Virginia Burrus. (February 2021)

Pre-Dissertation: “Classifications: Religion, Magic, and Daemonology in (Late) Antiquity.” Drs. Virginia Burrus, James W. Watts, & William Robert. (June 2021) (Comprehensive Exam Oral Defense, August 2021—passed with no revisions)

Professional References

Dr. Virginia Burrus, Bishop W. Earl Ledden Professor of Religion

Email: mvburrus@syr.edu

Dr. William Robert, Professor and Chair of Religion

Email: wrobert@syr.edu

Dr. Patricia Cox Miller, Professor Emerita of Religion

Email: plmiller@syr.edu

Dr. Gretchen Ritter, SU Vice President for Civic Engagement & Education

Email: ritterg@syr.edu

Dr. Marquis Bey, Assistant Professor of African American Studies & English

Email: marquis.bey@northwestern.edu

Last Updated: October 2024