

James Waddell

waddellj@umich.edu

phone: 517-262-2148

Experience and Personal Narrative

- Specialist of Second Temple Judaism & New Testament
- 13+ years developing live online religion curricula
- employs progressive, justice-focused pedagogy
- has developed hermeneutic of diversity and equity
- encourages hermeneutical self-awareness
- teaches and advises in contexts of cultural diversity (Ann Arbor and Detroit)
- employs inductive methods for differentiation and equity-based pedagogy
- uses lecture format, conversational instructor-led discussion, student-led discussion, field trips
- expects collaborative learning and relationship building
- uses a variety of classroom technologies, individualized instruction
- 16+ years of student advising and effective student retention

For the last twenty-five years, in contexts of teaching and research, I have developed my own hermeneutic of diversity and equity, formed out of the dynamic relationship between history and faith located in ancient sources. I do not require students to agree with me. I challenge embedded perspectives and encourage hermeneutical self-awareness. I expect students to engage the task of reading ancient sources with an open mind, and to enrich each other's knowledge and understanding of these documents with respect for multiple perspectives.

Subject Areas Qualified to Teach and/or Develop

- 1) Classical Hebrew, Aramaic, Classical and Koine Greek, Coptic, Latin
- 2) Hermeneutics ... History & Faith
- 3) Introduction to Hebrew Bible (OT) and New Testament
- 4) Faith, Politics, and Justice in the World of Jesus
- 5) Paul the Jew, Apostle to Gentiles
- 6) Synoptic Gospels & Acts
- 7) The Gospel of John and Johannine Tradition
- 8) Empire & New Testament: Economy, Exploitation, Resistance
- 9) Postcolonial Bible
- 10) The Bible and American Politics
- 11) Graduate Travel Seminars to Turkey, Italy, & Greece: Life and Letters of Paul
- 12) World Religions (Eastern and Western)

Education

Ph.D. University of Michigan

Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies, Department of Near Eastern Studies

Area of Concentration — Ancient Civilizations and Biblical Studies

Area of Specialization — Second Temple Judaism and Christian Origins

Dissertation: *The Messiah in the Parables of Enoch and the Letters of Paul: A Comparative Analysis*

Advisor — Gabriele Boccaccini, Ph.D., University of Turin

M.A. University of Michigan

Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies, Department of Near Eastern Studies

Area of Concentration — Ancient Civilizations and Biblical Studies

Program — Judaism & Christianity in the Graeco-Roman World from Second Temple to Late Antiquity

Advisor — Gabriele Boccaccini, Ph.D.

S.T.M. Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Major — Exegetical Theology, New Testament

Minor — Historical Theology

“Narrative Seam Antics in Luke’s Gospel: Reading the Magnificat Again for the First Time”

Seminar paper submitted in fulfillment of the S.T.M. degree program

Advisor — James W. Voelz, Ph.D. Cambridge University

M.Div. Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

M.A. Washington University in St. Louis

Department of Classics

B.A. University of Nebraska, Lincoln

College of Arts and Science, Classics Department

Major — Classical Greek

Major — Integrated (Interdisciplinary) Studies

Minor — Classical Latin

Minor — History

Minor — Mathematics

Advisor — John D. Turner, Ph.D. Duke University

Pastoral Experience

- Pastor, Faith Lutheran Church of Ypsilanti, Michigan — since 2012
- Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church of Albion, Michigan — 1997-2006
Vicarage Supervisor, 1998-2006
- Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church of Louisiana, Missouri — 1991-'97
- Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Bowling Green, Missouri — 1991-'97

Academic Positions

- Professor of Biblical Studies, Ecumenical Theological Seminary, Detroit, MI since 2022
- Assoc. Professor of Biblical Studies, Ecumenical Seminary, Detroit, MI 2016–2022
- Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, Ecumenical Seminary, Detroit, MI 2013–16
- Adjunct Professor, Ecumenical Theological Seminary, Detroit, Michigan 2012–2013
- Visiting Lecturer, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor 2004, 2013
- Adjunct Professor, University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio 2010–2013
- Adjunct Professor, Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, Missouri 2012–2013
- Adjunct Professor, Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Michigan 2005–20012
- Adjunct Professor, University of Detroit–Mercy, Detroit, Michigan 2008
- Instructor of Classical Greek & Latin, William Jewel College, Liberty, Missouri 2008
- Graduate Student Instructor, Near Eastern Studies, U. of Michigan, Ann Arbor 2001–09

Academic Administrative Service

- Director of Program & Curriculum Development, Ecumenical Seminary since 2025
- Director of the Masters' Programs, Ecumenical Theological Seminary 2016–2025
- Strategic Plan Committee, Ecumenical Theological Seminary 2017–2019
- Co-director of the Master's Programs, Ecumenical Theological Seminary 2015–2016
- Chair, Curriculum Committee, Ecumenical Theological Seminary 2015–
- Faculty Committee, Ecumenical Theological Seminary 2015–
- Student Advising, Ecumenical Theological Seminary 2015–
- Chair, Online Education Committee, Ecumenical Theological Seminary 2014–2020

Teaching Experience

Ecumenical Theological Seminary, Detroit, Michigan

- 1) Koine Greek I — onsite and online
- 2) Koine Greek II — onsite and online
- 3) Biblical Greek Exegesis – multiple NT books, Septuagint, Classical Texts — onsite and online
- 4) Biblical Hermeneutics — online
- 5) Introduction to the Hebrew Bible (OT) — on site and online
- 6) Introduction to the New Testament — on site and online
- 7) The Prophetic Tradition — hybrid
- 8) Faith, Politics, and Justice in the World of Jesus — online
- 9) Paul the Apostle — onsite and online
- 10) The Gospel of Mark — online
- 11) The Gospel of Matthew — online
- 12) Luke–Acts — online
- 13) The Gospel of John and the Johannine Tradition — online
- 14) Empire, Wealth, and Poverty in the New Testament — online
- 15) Protest & Resistance in the Gospels: Faith's Response to the Forces of Empire — online
- 16) Postcolonial Bible — online
- 17) The Bible and American Politics — online
- 18) Church History I: Early Church to the Late Medieval Period — hybrid
- 19) Worship and the Lectionary (Years A & C) — online

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

- 1) Introduction to the New Testament
- 2) Jesus and the Gospels
- 3) The Bible in English
- 4) The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Qumran Community
- 5) World Religions—Judaism, Christianity & Islam

University of Toledo

- 1) Old Testament / Tanakh
- 2) Introduction to the New Testament
- 3) Jewish Biblical Studies: Second Temple Judaism and the Dead Sea Scrolls
- 4) Jewish Biblical Studies: The Life and Writings of Paul
- 5) World Religions (Eastern & Western)
- 6) World Religions (Eastern & Western) — Honors
- 7) Introduction to Religion

William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri

- 1) Classical Greek
- 2) Classical Latin

University of Detroit Mercy

1) Jesus and the Gospels

Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, Missouri

1) Lutheran Liturgical Theology

Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Michigan

1) Introduction to the Old Testament

2) Introduction to the New Testament

3) New Testament World

4) Life & Teachings of Paul

5) Foundations of Christianity

6) Ethics & Leadership

Scholarship

Books (peer reviewed)

The Messiah: A Comparative Study of the Enochic Son of Man and the Pauline Kyrios. Jewish and Christian Texts in Context and Related Studies, no. 10. James H. Charlesworth, ed. London: T&T Clark, 2011. xvi + 240 pages.

A Simplified Guide to Worshiping As Lutherans. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2009. Paper. xvii + 136 pp.

The Struggle to Reclaim the Liturgy in the Lutheran Church: Adiaphora in Historical, Theological and Practical Perspective. Preface by Robert A. Kolb. Lewiston, New York: Edwin Mellen, 2005. xvii + 415 pp.

Books in Progress

History and Faith: Reading the Texts of Our Religious Past with Hermeneutical Self-Awareness. in progress.

Imagining the Enslaved as Child: Depicting Dominated Peoples in Greek and Roman Daily Life as Ideology of Power and Propaganda of Empire. in progress.

The Son of Man Question. in progress.

The Enigma of Romans: Jews, Gentiles, and the Trauma of Empire. in progress.

Books Coedited (peer reviewed)

Wisdom Poured Out Like Water: Studies on Jewish and Christian Antiquity in Honor of Gabriele Boccaccini. Edited by J. Harold Ellens, Isaac W. Oliver, Jason von Ehrenkrook, James Waddell, and Jason M. Zurawski. Deuterocanonical and Cognate Literature Studies, Volume 38. Series editors: Friedrich V. Reiterer, Beate Ego, Tobias Nicklas, and Kristin de Troyer. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2018.

Enoch and the Mosaic Torah: The Evidence of Jubilees. Proceedings of the Fourth International Seminar on the Enoch Literature, Camaldoli, Italy, 1-5 July 2007. Gabriele Boccaccini, ed. Jason von Ehrenkrook, James Waddell & Jason Zurawski, assist. eds. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009.

Enoch and Qumran Origins: New Light on a Forgotten Connection. Proceedings of the Second International Seminar on the Enoch Literature, Venice, Italy, 1-5 July 2003. Gabriele Boccaccini, ed. J. Harold Ellens and James Waddell, assist. eds. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.

“The Origins of Enochic Judaism,” Proceedings of the First Enoch Seminar, University of Michigan, Sesto Fiorentino, Italy, June 19 - 23, 2001. Gabriele Boccaccini, ed. J. Harold Ellens and James Waddell, assist. eds. *HENOCH* XXIV.1-2 (2002).

Light For Our World: Essays Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. John W. Klotz, editor. David Kuhfal, Steve Niermann, Steve Smith, James Waddell, and Todd Wilken, student editors. St. Louis: Concordia Seminary, 1989.

Book Chapters (peer reviewed)

“God’s Laocoönic Effort to Break Free from the Mess God Made: The Centuries-Old Problem of the Relationship between Faith and History.” A Review from a New Testament Specialist’s Perspective of L. Daniel Hawk, *The Violence of the Biblical God: Canonical Narrative and Christian Faith*. SBL Press, 2020. Presented at the Eastern Great Lakes Regional Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Akron, Ohio, 15 March 2019. Society of Biblical Literature.

“‘I Have Been Born Among You’: Jesus, Jews, and Christians in the Second Century.” *Wisdom Poured Out Like Water: Studies on Jewish and Christian Antiquity in Honor of Gabriele Boccaccini.* Edited by J. Harold Ellens, Isaac W. Oliver, Jason von Ehrenkrook, James Waddell, and Jason M. Zurawski. Deuterocanonical and Cognate Literature Studies, Volume 38. Edited by Friedrich V. Reiterer, Beate Ego, Tobias Nicklas, and Kristin de Troyer. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2018. 526–538.

“The Shadow and the Substance: Early Reception of Paul the Jew in the Letter to the Colossians.” *The Early Reception of Paul the Second Temple Jew: Text, Narrative and Reception History.* Isaac Oliver and Gabriele Boccaccini, editors. The Library of Second Temple Studies 92. Lester Grabbe, editor. London: Bloomsbury T.&T. Clark, 2018. 75–87.

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“Enochic Judaism and the Messiah of the Early Church: Adapted Images of Heaven, Hell, and Afterlife.” *Heaven, Hell, and the Afterlife: Eternity in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*. Vol. 1, *End Time and Afterlife in Judaism*. J. Harold Ellens, ed. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2013. 61–69.

“Biblical Notions and Admonitions on Evil in Pauline Literature.” *Explaining Evil*. 3 vols. J. Harold Ellens, ed. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2011.

“Enoch and the Enoch Tradition: A Bibliography, 2000–Present.” *The Early Enoch Literature*. Gabriele Boccaccini and John J. Collins, editors. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2007. 337–347.

Articles (peer reviewed)

“Enoch’s Place at the Table . . . The Beginning of an Important Conversation?” *HENOCH: Studies in Judaism and Christianity from Second Temple to Late Antiquity* 33.2 (fall 2011): 1–2.

“*Recte Administrantur Sacramenta*: ‘Sacraments Administered Rightly’ according to *Augustana VII*.” *CONCORDIA JOURNAL* 32.4 (October 2006): 371–380.

“The Church’s Theological Practice of Liturgy: Clarifying Hermeneutical Boundaries.” *CONCORDIA JOURNAL* 32.1 (January 2006): 2–16.

“Identifying Authorities and Pastoral Practice in the Early Church. Two Case Studies: Basil of Caesarea and Ephrem of Syria.” *CONCORDIA JOURNAL* 31.1 (January 2005): 48–59.

“Will the Real Judaism Please Stand Up? Ritual Self-Definition As Ideological Discourse from Qumran to Jerusalem.” *HENOCH: Historical and Philosophical Studies on Judaism* 26.1 (april 2004): 3–23.

Book Reviews

Hurtado, Larry W., Paul L. Owens. ‘*Who Is This Son of Man?*’ *The Latest Scholarship on a Puzzling Expression of the Historical Jesus*. The Library of New Testament Studies 390. London: T&T Clark, 2011. Cloth. \$130.00. Reviewed in *Enoch Seminar Online*. August 2013.

Walck, Leslie W. *The Son of Man in the Parables of Enoch and in Matthew*. Jewish and Christian Texts in Context and Related Studies, vol. 9. James H. Charlesworth, ed. London / New York: T&T Clark, 2011. Cloth. \$130.00. Reviewed in *HENOCH: Studies in Judaism and Christianity from Second Temple to Late Antiquity* 34.1 (spring 2012): 174–178.

Kannengiesser, Charles, editor. *Handbook of Patristic Exegesis: The Bible in Ancient Christianity*. 2 vols. Leiden: Brill, 2004; 1 vol. unabridged. Leiden: Brill, 2006. xxxiv + 1,496 pages. Cloth. \$179.00. Reviewed in *HENOCH: Studies in Judaism and Christianity from Second Temple to Late Antiquity* 29.2 (2007): 386–391.

Invited Academic Papers

Respondent to Vincent Wimbush, “2024 MLK Day Lecture.” Hosted by Michigan Center for Early Christian Studies. Ann Arbor, Michigan. 22 January 2024.

“Paul’s Apocalyptic Messianism: A Complex Triptych of Adam, Enoch, and Jesus.” Presented at the Enoch Seminar (online), “Was Paul an Apocalyptic Jew? A Case in Jewish Diversity in the Second Temple Period.” 25–27 October 2021.

Review Panel (New Testament Perspective) of L. Daniel Hawk, *The Violence of the Biblical God: Canonical Narrative and Christian Faith*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2019. Presented at the Eastern Great Lakes Regional Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Akron, Ohio, 15 March 2019.

“The Shadow and the Substance: Early Reception of Paul the Jew in the Letter to the Colossians.” The Fourth Nangeroni Meeting of the Enoch Seminar. Rome, Italy, 2016.

“Adam, Enoch and Paul: Merging Intellectual Traditions of Early Christology” / the First International Graduate Enoch Seminar, 2-4 May 2006, the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

“Will the Real Judaism Please Stand Up? Ritual Self-Definition As Ideological Discourse from Qumran to Jerusalem” / the February 2004 Meeting of the Midwest Region of the Society of Biblical Literature

“Will the Real Judaism Please Stand Up? Ritual Self-Definition As Ideological Discourse from Qumran to Jerusalem” / the University of Michigan, Department of Near Eastern Studies, 31 March 2003

Academic Papers

“Was the Infancy Gospel of Thomas a Jewish Document?” / the 2014 Meeting of the Midwest Region of the Society of Biblical Literature, Bourbonnais, Illinois.

“Recontextualizing the Infancy Gospel of Thomas—A Proposal” / Christian Apocrypha Group of the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Chicago, Illinois

“Wisdom in Enochic Scribal Communities—Ekstasia and Apocalypse as Religious Experience” / Religious Experience in Early Judaism and Christianity Group of the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Chicago, Illinois

“The Enochic Son of Man and Pauline Christology” / The Pauline Epistles Group of the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, San Francisco, California

“The Intertextuality of First Enoch, Paul, and the Gospel of Matthew: Modeling Early Jewish Messianic Systems” / Intertextuality in the New Testament Group of the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Atlanta, Georgia

“*The Greek Life of Adam and Eve* and the *Carmen Christi* of Philippians 2: Evidence of Competing Jewish Soteriologies” / Intertextuality in the New Testament Consultation Group of the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, New Orleans, Louisiana

“*The Greek Life of Adam and Eve* and the *Carmen Christi* of Philippians 2: Evidence of Competing Jewish Soteriologies” / the 2009 Meeting of the Midwest Region of the Society of Biblical Literature, Bourbonnais, Illinois

“Adam, Enoch and Paul: Merging Intellectual Traditions of Early Christology” / the First International Graduate Enoch Seminar, 2-4 May 2006, the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

“Apostolic Response to the ‘Forged Letter’ in 2 Thessalonians 2: an Example of Pauline Exegesis” / the January 2006 Exegetical Symposium, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

“Will the Real Judaism Please Stand Up? Ritual Self-Definition As Ideological Discourse from Qumran to Jerusalem” / the February 2004 Meeting of the Midwest Region of the Society of Biblical Literature

“Identifying Authorities and Pastoral Practice in the Early Church. Two Case Studies: Basil of Caesarea and Ephrem of Syria” / the September 2003 Theological Symposium of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri

“Identifying Authorities in the Church’s Theological Practice of Liturgy: Clarifying Hermeneutical Boundaries” / the September 2003 Theological Symposium of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri

“Will the Real Judaism Please Stand Up? Ritual Self-Definition As Ideological Discourse from Qumran to Jerusalem” / the University of Michigan, Department of Near Eastern Studies, 31 March 2003

“Will the Real Judaism Please Stand Up? Ritual Self-Definition As Ideological Discourse from Qumran to Jerusalem and Its Implications for New Testament Exegesis” / the January 2003 Exegetical Symposium, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

“Rabbinic Exegesis and the Commandment against Idolatry: Palestinian Synagogues Interacting with Roman Culture of Late Antiquity” / the January 2002 Exegetical Symposium, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

“Psalm 22 in Its Liturgical Context” / the January 2001 Exegetical Symposium, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

“Narrative Seam Antics in Luke’s Gospel: Reading the Magnificat Again for the First Time” / the January 2000 Exegetical Symposium, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

“A Liturgical Paradox: Order and Freedom according to the Sixteenth-Century Evangelical Witness” / the September 1999 Theological Symposium of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri

“*In Statu Confessionis*: Adiaphora, Liturgy and Conf[es/u]sion” / the May 1999 Theological Symposium of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri

“The Confessional Referents of Evangelical Catholicity” / the May 1999 Theological Symposium of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri

Invited Presentations for the Church

“Toward a Theology of Worship: A Biblical and Confessional Understanding and Approach” / Michigan District (Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod) / *Come Let Us Worship the Lord Our Maker (Psalm 95.6): Theological Conferences on Worship* / Jenison, Michigan, 25 January 2011 / with Rev. Larry Vogel of the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations and the Rev. David Johnson of Concordia Publishing House

“Toward a Theology of Worship: A Biblical and Confessional Understanding and Approach” / Michigan District (Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod) / *Come Let Us Worship the Lord Our Maker (Psalm 95.6): Theological Conferences on Worship* / Birmingham, Michigan, 12 February 2011 / with Rev. Larry Vogel of the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations and the Rev. David Johnson of Concordia Publishing House

“Toward a Theology of Worship: A Biblical and Confessional Understanding and Approach” / Michigan District (Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod) / *Come Let Us Worship the Lord Our Maker (Psalm 95.6): Theological Conferences on Worship* / Saginaw, Michigan, 26 February 2011 / with Rev. Larry Vogel of the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations and the Rev. David Johnson of Concordia Publishing House

“No Matter How Differently We May Value Adiaphora the Silence of God’s Word Cannot Be Changed: A Response to Charles Arand” / Respondent paper at the Model Theological Conference, Commission on Worship, Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, St. Louis, Missouri, 12-16 January 2010

“Looking Forward in Harmony: Reintroducing the Conversation about Worship in the Lutheran Congregation” / Michigan District (Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod) North and East Pastors’ Conference, Saginaw, Michigan, 5-6 May 2009

“Looking Forward in Harmony: Reintroducing the Conversation about Worship in the Lutheran Congregation” / Circuit Pastors Meeting, Michigan District (Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod), Jackson, Michigan, 7 April 2009

“Moving Beyond Worship Wars: Reintroducing the Conversation about Worship in the Lutheran Congregation” / California-Nevada-Hawaii District (Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod) Pastors’ Conference, Lake Tahoe, Nevada, 7-9 October 2008

“Clearly Communicating the Good News: Moving Beyond Worship Wars” / South Dakota District (Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod) Pastors’ Conference, Dakota Dunes, South Dakota, 7-9 April 2008

“Moving Beyond Worship Wars: Reintroducing the Conversation about Worship in the Lutheran Congregation—Part 1” / Capital Circuit Pastors Meeting, Michigan District (Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod), Lansing, Michigan, 4 March 2008

“Moving Beyond Worship Wars: Reintroducing the Conversation about Worship in the Lutheran Congregation” / North Dakota District (Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod) Pastors’ Conference, Bismarck, North Dakota, 1-2 October 2007

Faculty-Led Workshops and Lectures at Ecumenical Seminary

28 February 2024	Palestine–Israel Roundtable: Biblical–Interpretive Considerations
24 January 2024	Palestine–Israel Roundtable: History and Background
Fall 2023	Preaching the Lectionary, Series B
24 May 2023	History and Faith: Exploring the Faiths of Our Past and the Histories of Our Present
Fall 2019	Preaching the Lectionary, Series A

Public Presentations

“Paul As Urban Prophet: Ideology of Community vs. Ideology of Power in Pauline Literature.” The 2013 Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Workshop Series, Ecumenical Theological Seminary, Detroit, Michigan

“Mockery and Sarcasm: Biblical Satire in Its Social and Political Contexts.” 2012, University of Toledo

“‘Glorious Seraphim Surround the Throne’: Apocalypse and Afterlife in Jewish Thought from the Second Temple Period to Today.” 2011, University of Toledo

“Priests, Scribes, and Sacred Texts: The Diversity of Biblical Interpretation in the Second Temple Period.” 2010, University of Toledo

Professional Editorial Work

2009-’10	Senior Editor, <i>WorshipConcord</i> , http://worshipconcord.wordpress.com/
2005-10	Secretary for the American Editorial Board of the international journal <i>HENOCH: Studies in Judaism and Christianity from Second Temple to Late Antiquity</i>
1987-’91	Student assistant editor, <i>CONCORDIA JOURNAL</i> , Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri

Local Media

“With Faith, Detroit Is Never Bankrupt,” *The Detroit News*, Guest Editorial, 19 April 2014

Volunteer Academic Service

- Michigan Center for Early Christian Studies—Board of Directors, Advisory, since 2022
- Michigan Center for Early Christian Studies—Board of Directors, 2017–2022
- Secretary, Enoch Seminar ...
 - Fifth Enoch Seminar, “Enoch, Adam, Melchizedek: Mediatorial Figures in 2 Enoch,” Chair Andrei Orlov (Marquette University), Naples, Italy, 2009
 - Third Enoch Seminar, “Enoch and the Messiah Son of Man: Revisiting the Book of Parables,” Chair Gabriele Boccaccini (University of Michigan), Camaldoli, Italy, 2005
 - Second Enoch Seminar, “Enoch and Qumran Origins,” Chair Gabriele Boccaccini (University of Michigan), Venice, Italy, 2003
 - First Enoch Seminar, “The Origins of Enochic Judaism,” Chair Gabriele Boccaccini (University of Michigan), Florence, Italy, 2001

Academic Awards

- 2004 Society of Biblical Literature, Midwest Region / Graduate Student Paper Competition in New Testament/Christian Origins, for the paper: “Will the Real Judaism Please Stand Up? Ritual Self-Definition As Ideological Discourse from Qumran to Jerusalem.”
- 2003 Michigan Center for Early Christian Studies Award in Early Christian Studies—Department of Near Eastern Studies, the University of Michigan, for the paper: “Will the Real Judaism Please Stand Up? Ritual Self-Definition As Ideological Discourse from Qumran to Jerusalem.”
- 1990 Marvin E. Kuhlmann Homiletics Endowment Award—Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO

Grants & Fellowships

- 2010 One Term Dissertation Fellowship—Department of Near Eastern Studies, Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies, University of Michigan
- 2009 Summer Fellowship—Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan
- 2009 Near Eastern Studies Departmental Fellowship—University of Michigan
- 2007/'08 Radcliffe Fellowship—Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies, University of Michigan
- 2007/'08 Ramsdell Fellowship—Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies, University of Michigan
- 2007 Brandt Israel Fellowship—Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan
- 2007 Near Eastern Studies Departmental Fellowship—University of Michigan
- 2007 Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant (Ph.D. candidate)—Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies, University of Michigan
- 2005 Barney & Beatrice Keywell Graduate Student Fellowship—Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan
- 2005 Discretionary Fellowship (Ph.D. pre-candidate)—Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies, University of Michigan
- 2004 Near Eastern Studies Departmental Fellowship—University of Michigan
- 2003 Weinberg Graduate Fellowship—Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan
- 2003 Hewlett International Travel Grant for Study Abroad—Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies, University of Michigan
- 2001 Delta Phi Epsilon Fellowship—Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan
- 2001 Near Eastern Studies Departmental Fellowship—University of Michigan
- 2001 Discretionary Fellowship (Master's level)—Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies, University of Michigan

Languages and competence

Ancient Languages

Biblical Hebrew (proficiency)
Rabbinic Hebrew (moderate)
Aramaic (proficiency)
Syriac (moderate)
Classical Greek (proficiency)
Hellenistic Greek (proficiency)
Classical Latin (proficiency)
Medieval Latin (moderate)
Sahidic Coptic (proficiency)
Ethiopic Ge'ez (moderate)

Modern Languages

German (reading)
French (reading)
Modern Hebrew (beginning)
Arabic (beginning)
Spanish (beginning)
English (first language)

Professional Societies

- Society for Classical Studies—member since 2010
- Society of Biblical Literature—member since 2002

Study Abroad

- 2009 • *The Fifth International Seminar on the Enoch Literature / Naples, Italy / Secretary*

“Enoch, Adam, Melchizedek: Mediatorial Figures in 2 Enoch and Second Temple Judaism”

Participants: Gabriele Boccaccini (host), Andrei Orlov, Harold Attridge, Daniel Boyarin, James Charlesworth, Esther Eshel, Hanan Eshel, Lester Grabbe, John R. Levison, Stephen Pfann, Lawrence Schiffman, Michael Stone, David Suter, Johannes Tromp, et al.

Seminar papers published as *Enoch, Adam, Melchizedek: Mediatorial Figures in 2 Enoch and Second Temple Judaism*, Proceedings of the Fifth Enoch Seminar, University of Michigan, Naples, Italy, 6-10 June 2009, Gabriele Boccaccini editor (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011).

- *Rome, Italy / Studied archaeological sites, artifacts and visited museums*

- 2007 • *The Third Biennial Michigan Summer School in the Roman Mediterranean Israel Antiquities Authority / Jerusalem, Israel*

Graduate Seminar: “Jews and Christians in the Holy Land”

Studied texts, archaeological ruins and artifacts through daily on-site investigation, lectures and discussions, at Jerusalem (Citadel, Jewish Quarter, Temple Mount, the Israel Museum, etc.), Judean Desert Byzantine Monasteries of Martirius and Euthimius, Caesarea Maritima, Beth She’arim, Sepphoris, Sussita-Hippus, Capernaum, Bet Alpha Synagogue, Beth She’an-Scythopolis, Qumran, Masada, the Nabataean and Byzantine cities of the Negev: Avdat, Shivta

- *Turkey / Istanbul, Nicaea, Pergamum, Miletus, Ephesus, Laodicea, Aphrodisias, Hierapolis*

visited museums and archeological sites / Hagia Sophia, Istanbul; Archaeological Museum, Pergamum; Archaeological Museum, Ephesus; Archaeological Museum Hierapolis

- *Greece / Athens, Delphi, Eleusis*

visited museums and archeological sites / National Archaeological Museum, Athens; Epigraphic Museum, Athens; Archaeological Museum, Delphi

- *England / London and Bath*

visited the British Museum and Roman Bath

- 2005 • *The Third International Seminar on the Enoch Literature / Camaldoli Monastery, Italy / Secretary*

“The Parables of Enoch and the Messiah Son of Man”

Participants: Gabriele Boccaccini (host), John J. Collins, James VanderKam, George Nickelsburg, Paolo Sacchi, Michael Knibb, James Charlesworth, Esther Eshel, Hanan Eshel, David Suter, Adela Yarbro-Collins, Loren Stuckenbruck, Lester Grabbe, Andrei Orlov, Jonathan Ben-Dov, Robert Kraft, Daniel Boyarin, Michael Stone, et al.

Seminar papers published as *Enoch and the Messiah Son of Man: Revisiting the Book of Parables*, Proceedings of the Third Enoch Seminar, University of Michigan, Camaldoli, Italy, 6-10 June 2005, Gabriele Boccaccini editor (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007).

- *The Second Biennial Michigan Summer School in the Roman Mediterranean The University of Naples / Naples, Italy*

Graduate Seminar: “Jews and Christians in Late Antiquity”
Studied texts, archaeological ruins and artifacts through daily on-site investigation, lectures, and discussions, at Pompeii, Herculaneum, Puteoli, Paestum, and Oplontis.

- *Rome, Italy / Studied archaeological sites, artifacts and visited museums*

- 2003 • *The First Biennial Michigan Summer School in the Roman Mediterranean The University of Rome / San Gregorio Monastery, Rome, Italy*

Graduate Seminar: “Judaism and Christianity in Pre-Constantine Rome”
Studied texts, catacombs (Via Latina, Vinia Randanini, etc.) and archaeological artifacts through daily on-site investigation, lectures and discussions.

- *The Second International Seminar on the Enoch Literature / Venice, Italy / Assistant Secretary*

“Enoch and Qumran Origins: The Enoch Group and Its Literature in the Second Century BCE”

Participants: Gabriele Boccaccini (host), John J. Collins, James VanderKam, George Nickelsburg, Florentino García-Martínez, Paolo Sacchi, Michael Knibb, James Charlesworth, Martha Himmelfarb, Shemaryahu Talmon, Charlotte Hempel, Ithamar Gruenwald, Lawrence Schiffman, Emile Puech, Esther Eshel, Hanan Eshel, Michael Daise, Philip Davies, Lester Grabbe, James Davila, et al.

Seminar papers published as *Enoch and Qumran Origins: New Light on a Forgotten Connection*, Proceedings of the Second Enoch Seminar, University of Michigan, Venezia, Italy, 1-5 July 2003, Gabriele Boccaccini editor, J. Harold Ellens and James Alan Waddell assistant editors (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004).

- *Rome & Florence, Italy* / Studied archaeological sites, artifacts and visited museums

- 2001 • *The First International Seminar on the Enoch Literature* / Florence, Italy / *Assistant Secretary*

“The Origins of Enochic Judaism”

 Participants: Gabriele Boccaccini (host), James Charlesworth, John J. Collins, Florentino García-Martínez, George Nickelsburg, Paolo Sacchi, Michael Knibb, Devorah Dimant, Martha Himmelfarb, Ithamar Gruenwald, Esther Eshel, Hanan Eshel, Michael Daise, et al.

 Seminar papers published as “The Origins of Enochic Judaism,” Proceedings of the First Enoch Seminar, University of Michigan, Sesto Fiorentino, Italy, June 19 - 23, 2001. Gabriele Boccaccini, editor. *HENOCH* XXIV.1-2 (2002).

- *Israel* / Jerusalem, Masada, Ein Gedi, Qumran, Bet Alpha, Hamat Tiberius, Capernaum, Gamla, Sepphoris, etc.

 Spent a week in Jerusalem visiting museums, archeological sites and the Rockefeller Institute (to examine DSS fragments) / Archaeology at Bethsaida-Julia / studied remains of early synagogues

Intellectual Interests

- Postmodern, Post-Colonial & Empire Criticisms — the Bible and justice
- Hebrew Bible, Second Temple Judaism, New Testament
- Classical Studies — enslavement & economy, religion & philosophy in ancient cultures
- Pauline Studies — christology and soteriology
- Canonical Gospels — Son of Man
- Second Temple Judaism — Enoch Literature, Dead Sea Scrolls, and Qumran
- Early Jewish and Christian views of wealth, poverty, economic oppression, and justice
- Early Christianity — Jewish Christianity, Gnosticism, non-canonical developments
- Liturgical Theology

Studia Rerum Iudaicarum (personal blog)

plēnius humanum esse ... “to be more fully human” ... reflections on history and faith from the Second Temple Period to Late Antiquity informing contemporary socio-political commentary and criticism

<https://studiarerumiudaicarum.com>

What in the World Is Happening to Politics in America? 10 July 2025
Have You Ever Thought About Studying Greek? 10 July 2025
A Reflection on Storying our Grief, 9 July 2025
The Assault on Affirmative Action and Human Equality, 29 June 2023
Hate Your Enemy ... Kill Your Neighbor, 7 May 2023
Cancel Culture, Wokeness, and the Ugly American, 22 October 2021
A Statement of Solidarity with BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) from the Faculty of Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit, 17 June 2020
Redefining the Bible Thumper, 3 June 2020
The Privileges of Our Color, 31 May 2020
The Value of Studying Languages for Historical and Theological Research, 20 June 2019
Taking a Lesson from History ... The Not So Obvious Connection between Unrestrained War and Wealth Disparity, 30 April 2019
Politics and Religion, The Devil and Mephistopheles, 17 October 2018
The Reception of Paul the Jew in Colossians, 1 June 2018
Liturgy Wars the RC Way, 22 October 2017
The Cheapening of American Public Discourse ... and Its Consequences, 19 October 2017
The Ongoing Legacy of Hate and the Willful Misuse of the Bible, 12 August 2017
Protest and Civil Disobedience, 29 January 2017
Guns, Racism, and People Like You and Me, 7 July 2016
The Insatiable American Appetite for Wealth and Power and Its Fascist Underpinnings, 4 November 2015
A Pithy and Sarcastic Critique of the Corrupted American Electoral Process, 7 October 2015
The Perpetual Struggle between Democracy and Oligarchy ... A Concise History of Neoliberalism, 26 September 2015
A Wild-haired Jew Preaching to Present-day Conservatives Who Themselves Claim to Follow a First-century Jew, But Their Actions Suggest Otherwise, 18 September 2015
Politics and the American Culture of Authenticity, 12 August 2015
The Affordable Care Act and the Legal Fallacy of the Proof-texting Hermeneutic of Fundamentalism, 25 June 2015
White Privilege, Racism, and Myth, 24 June 2015
An Internal Discussion among the IMF Staff regarding Income Inequality, 16 June 2015
The Hallucinogenic Ritual Culture of the Philistines? 2 June 2015
The Measurable and Socially Immoral Consequences of Opportunity Inequality, 30 May 2015
The Conservative Attack on Academics in Higher Education, 23 April 2015
My Justification Lies with God, 18 April 2015

From Nico Lang on Why We Hate the Economically Insecure, 11 April 2015
Is the Religious Freedom Trope Just Another Wedge Issue? 10 April 2015
Free Market Karma, 8 April 2015
The Jubilee Year and Matthew 18.22, 10 December 2009
Paul and Jewish Identity, 24 July 2009

Community Service

- Huron Valley Urban Farm, Ypsilanti Township, Michigan, since 2014
- Community Garden Organizer and Volunteer, Ypsilanti Township, Michigan, 2014–2017
- Little League Baseball, assistant coach, 2008-'10
- Rotary International, 1998-2004
- Community Moral & Spiritual Leadership and Diversity Team, 1999-2000
- Institute for Healing Racism in America, 1997-'99
- Hospice Chaplain, Pike County Missouri, 1995-'97
- Public High School Curriculum Committee, Louisiana, Missouri, 1994-'96; chair 1995-'96
- Board Member, North East Community Action Council, Pike County Missouri, 1994-'96
- Louisiana Ministerial Alliance, Louisiana, Missouri, 1991-'97; president 1992-'94
- Bowling Green Ministerial Assoc., Bowling Green, Missouri, 1991-'97; secretary 1994-'96