

**Hugo Méndez**

Assistant Professor in Ancient Mediterranean Religions  
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Current: 17 August 2022

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

Department of Religious Studies

Assistant Professor, 2018–

Carolina Postdoctoral Fellow for Faculty Diversity, 2016–18.

Department of Classics

Adjunct Assistant Professor, 2019–

**Yale University**

Yale Divinity School

Lecturer, 2014–16.

Yale Institute of Sacred Music

ISM Fellow in Sacred Music, Worship, and the Related Arts, 2014–16.

**EDUCATION**

**University of Georgia**

Ph.D., Linguistics (Historical), 2013.

M.A., Religion, 2009.

**Southern Adventist University**

B.A., English, 2006.

**HONORS, AWARDS, AND FUNDING**

Robert M. Kingdon Fellowship, Institute for Research in the Humanities, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2022–23 (declined).

Borden Faculty Fellow, Institute for the Arts and Humanities, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2022.

Summer Online Course Design Program, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2022.

Schwab Academic Excellence Award, Institute for the Arts and Humanities, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2021.

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, Center for the Study of Christianity, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2016–17 (declined).  
 Fellowship, Carolina Postdoctoral Program for Faculty Diversity, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2016–18.  
 ISM Fellowship in Sacred Music, Worship, and the Related Arts, Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University, 2014–16.  
 Travel Grant, Society of Oriental Liturgy, 2014.  
 Lilly Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Humanities and the Arts, 2014–16 (declined).  
 Scholarship, North American Academy of Liturgy, 2013.  
 Outstanding Teaching Award in Religion, University of Georgia, 2009.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### **Books**

*Gospel Truth: The Biblical Books of John as a Chain of Pseudo-Historical Texts* (under contract with New York: Oxford University Press).

(with Bart D. Ehrman) *The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. (under development for Oxford University Press).

*The Cult of Stephen in Jerusalem: Inventing a Patron Martyr*. Oxford Early Christian Studies (in press with Oxford: Oxford University Press; expected publication date November 2022).

### **Refereed Journal Articles**

“Jesus’s Secret Journey in John 7: A Symbol of the Ascension” (9,472 words; forthcoming with *Harvard Theological Review*; expected 2023).

“Revising the Date of the Armenian Lectionary of Jerusalem.” *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 29 (2021): 61–92 (<https://doi.org/10.1353/earl.2021.0002>).

“Did the Johannine Community Exist?” *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* 42 (2020): 350–374 (<https://doi.org/10.1177/0142064X19890490>).

“Mixed Metaphors: Resolving the ‘Eschatological Headache’ of John 5.” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 137 (2018): 711–732 (<https://doi.org/10.15699/jbl.1373.2018.409291>).

“He Spoke... Forever’: A Hebrew Idiom in Luke 1:55.” *Biblica* 98 (2017): 257–269 (<https://doi.org/10.2143/BIB.98.2.3217846>).

“Stephen the Martyr (Acts vi-viii) in the Early Jerusalem Lectionary System.” *Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 68 (2017): 22–39 (<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022046916001421>).

“Semitic Poetic Techniques in the Magnificat: Luke 1:46–47, 55.” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 135 (2016): 557–574 (<https://doi.org/10.15699/jbl.1353.2016.2713>).

“‘Night’ and ‘Day’ in John 9.4–5: A Reassessment.” *New Testament Studies* 61 (2015): 468–481. (<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0028688515000223>)

“The Origin of the Post-Nativity Commemorations.” *Vigiliae Christianae* 68 (2014): 290–309 (<https://doi.org/10.1163/15700720-12341169>).

“‘Overcoming Divide’ as a Motif in Eastern Christian Liturgy.” *Studia Liturgica* 43 (2013): 281–302.

“Celestial Liturgy as Cause of the Eschatological Judgment.” *Ecclesia Orans* 28 (2011): 267–286.

### Chapters in Edited Volumes

“1, 2, 3 John.” In *Judeophobia and the New Testament: Texts, Contexts, and Pedagogy*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans (2,038 words; forthcoming).

“What Does Lazarus Have to Do with the Epiphany? Unraveling a Mystery in the Early Jerusalem Lectionary.” In *Studia Patristica, Vol. CXXV: Papers presented at the Eighteenth International Conference on Patristic Studies held in Oxford 2019*, ed. by Markus Vinzent, vol. 21, 51–63. Leuven: Peeters, 2021.

“The Ritual Year of Fourth- and Fifth-Century Constantinople: Insights from the Gothic Calendar.” In *Studies in Oriental Liturgy: Proceedings of the Fifth International Congress of the Society of Oriental Liturgy, New York, 10-15 June 2014*, ed. by Bert Groen, et al., Eastern Christian Studies 28. Leuven: Peeters, 2019, 167–178.

### Unpublished Conference Presentations

“The Relationship between the Gospel and Letters of John.” 2022 CBA Annual Meeting, Santa Clara, CA (virtual), 2 August 2022.

“Rethinking the Relationship Between the Jerusalem Lectionary and the Armenian Lectionary,” Eighth International SOL Congress, Thessaloniki, Greece, 14 June 2022.

“How Did Pseudepigrapha Surface? Exploring the Ancient Data,” 2021 SBL Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX (Book History and Biblical Literatures), 20 November 2021.

“Jewish Christianity and the Making of the Armenian Lectionary,” 2021 NAPS Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, 28 May 2021.

“The Invented Eyewitness of the Gospel and Epistles of John: A Literary History,” 2020 SBL Annual Meeting, Boston, MA (Johannine Literature), 7 December 2020.

"The Sixth Day of the Epiphany in the Early Jerusalem Lectionary," 2020 NAAL Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, 3 January 2020.

"Did They Really Talk This Way?: The Johannine Epistles and the Scholarly Construction of a 'Johannine Sociolect.'" 2019 SBL Annual Meeting (Johannine Literature), San Diego, CA, 23 November 2019.

"In the Beginning Was the Word?: The Johannine Community as a 'Textual Community' in Recent Scholarship." 2019 SBL Annual Meeting (Social-Scientific Criticism of the New Testament), San Diego, CA, 23 November 2019.

"Duplicate Feasts, Different Homilies: Liturgical Tailoring in Hesychius of Jerusalem's Homilies at Bethany (Serm. 11, 12)." XVIII International Conference on Patristics Studies. Oxford, UK, 22 August 2019.

"Questioning the Existence of the Johannine Community." CBA Annual Meeting (Gospel and Letters of John), Washington, DC, 30 July 2019.

"A Revised Dating of the Old Jerusalem/Armenian Lectionary System." 2019 NAAL Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, 4 January 2019.

"The Date of the *Armenian Lectionary*: Reconsidering Renoux." Seventh International SOL Congress, Košice, Slovakia, 13 June 2018.

"Teaching Biblical Languages and Tools Without Leaving Our Minority Students Behind: A Curriculum Proposal." 2017 CBA Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, 8 August 2017.

"Mixing Metaphors: Reconsidering How Jesus Speaks About Last Things in John 5." 2017 Southeast SBL Regional Meeting (SECSOR), Raleigh, NC, 3 March 2017. (Nominated for SBL Regional Scholar Award).

"'(Do not) Hold This Sin Against Them' (Acts 7.60): Imposed Intertextualities and the Bracketing of Stephen's Dying Prayer." 2016 SBL Annual Meeting (Book of Acts), San Antonio, TX, 20 November 2016.

"Weaponizing Stephen: Caricature and Competition in the *Revelatio Sancti Stephani*." 2016 SBL Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX (Religious Competition in Late Antiquity), 22 November 2016.

"The Relationship between the Johannine 'Hour' and 'Last Day': Insights from LXX Daniel." John Seminar, 2016 CBA Annual Meeting, Santa Clara, CA, 8 August 2016.

"'Are We Also Blind?': Impairment, Inclusion, and Metaphor in John 9." 2016 New England/Eastern Canada SBL Regional Meeting, Providence, RI, 10 April 2016.

“Did God ‘Speak Forever?’: Reconsidering the Sources and Formation of the Lukan Infancy Hymns.” 2015 SBL Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA (Formation of Luke and Acts), 22 November 2015.

“‘And the Darkness He Called Night’: John 9.4–5 and the P Creation Account.” 2015 New England/Eastern Canada SBL Regional Meeting, Newton, MA, 24 April 2015.

“The Occasion(s) of Hesychius of Jerusalem’s Homilies at the Lazarium.” 2015 NAAL Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, 2 January 2015.

“Stylistic Preposition/Case Alternation in Luke 1.55 and the Original Language of the Magnificat.” 2014 SBL Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA (Jewish Christianities/Christian Judaisms), 23 November 2014.

“The Place of the Arian ‘Gothic Calendar’ Fragment in Heortological Research.” Fifth International SOL Congress, Yonkers/Crestwood, NY, 12 June 2014.

“The Origins of the Post-Epiphany Feast for Stephen in Jerusalem and Syria.” 2014 NAAL Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, 4 January 2014.

“Martyr, Eschaton, and Liturgy in Two First Century Apocalypses.” 2013 Southeast SBL Regional Meeting (SECSOR), Greenville, SC, 17 March 2013.

#### **Invited External Presentations**

*Presentation.* “The Community of the Invented Disciple: Rethinking Johannine Origins,” Duke New Testament and Jewish Studies Colloquium, Duke University, 27 February 2019.

#### **Invited External Workshops**

*Invited Paper.* “Reception of John in the Johannine Epistles.” Reception of the Gospel of John as a Literary Source Workshop, Durham University, Durham, UK, 14 July 2022.

#### **Internal Presentations**

*Departmental Talk.* “How ‘Devout Men Buried Stephen’ (Acts 8:2): Lectionaries and the Manipulation of Stephen Tradition.” ISM Fellows Series, Yale University, 14 April 2016.

*Internal Conference Presentation.* “‘The Dividing Wall of Hostility’? Deconstructing a Symbol of Alienation.” Beyond the Veil: Negotiating Boundaries in Sacred Music, Worship, and the Arts (Conference), Yale University, 27 March 2015.

*Departmental Talk.* “A(nother) Proto-feast for the Protomartyr,” Liturgy Symposium Series, Yale University, 2 March 2015.

*Departmental Talk.* "Feasts for the First Fruits': Commemorating Stephen, James, John, Peter, and Paul in the Fourth Century," ISM Fellows Series, Yale University, 29 January 2015.

### **Public-Facing Scholarship**

*Documentary Interview.* 1895 Films. 2022.

*Podcasts.* "The Triduum Gospels" (3 episodes). Continuing Education and Formation of Priests, Roman Catholic Diocese of Raleigh, 2022.

*Video Lectures.* "Introducing the Gospel of Mark" (2 episodes). Continuing Education and Formation of Priests, Roman Catholic Diocese of Raleigh, 2021.

*Public Lecture.* "Introducing Mark," UNC Newman Catholic Student Center, Chapel Hill, NC, 11 January 2020 (pre-recorded due to COVID).

*Public Lecture.* "Early Christian Forgery: Reflections of a Byzantine Catholic Scholar," UNC Catholic Faculty Forum, Chapel Hill, NC, 5 December 2019.

*Public Lecture.* "Making (Ritual) Time: The Forgotten Origin of Christianity's Feasts and Fasts," 2018 Speaker Series, Franciscan Center of Greensboro, Greensboro, NC, 5 April 2018.

*Public Lecture.* "Ancient Christian House Churches: Separating Myth from Reality," Christian Faculty Forum, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, 15 March 2018.

*Public Lecture.* "The 'Mass' You Wouldn't Recognize: Breaking Bread in an Early Christian Community." 2017 Speaker Series, Franciscan Center of Greensboro, Greensboro, NC, 26 October 2017.

*Public Lecture.* "The Word Made Paint: How Byzantine Iconography Translates the Bible." 2016 Speaker Series, Franciscan Center of Greensboro, Greensboro, NC, 13 October 2016.

### **Book Reviews and Other Un-Refereed Publications**

*Online Article.* "The Elusive Contexts of the Johannine Literature: A Response to Paul Anderson." Bible and Interpretation. Online: <https://bibleinterp.arizona.edu/articles/elusive-contexts-johannine-literature>.

*Book Review.* "Syrien im 1.-7. Jahrhundert nach Christus, edited by Dmitrij Bumazhnov and Hans Reinhard Seeliger." *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 137 (2017), 622–624.

*Encyclopedia Entry.* "Church." *Islam: A Worldwide Encyclopedia*, edited by Cenap Cakmak. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2017.

*Book Review. "Advent to Pentecost: Comparing the Seasons in the Ordinary and Extraordinary Forms of the Roman Rite, by Patrick Regan." Theological Studies 74 (2013): 1045–1046.*

*Book Review. "Practices of Wonder: Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives, edited by Sophia Vasalou." Theological Book Review 25 (2013): 6–7.*

### **Pieces in Preparation**

"Reception of John in the Johannine Epistles" (invited paper for a July 2022 conference in Durham, UK and proposed multiauthor volume).

"'They Went Out from Us': What Scholars Keep and Gain When They Leave the Johannine Community Hypothesis" (invited paper for proposed multiauthor volume; due August 2023)

### **TEACHING ACTIVITIES**

#### **Courses Taught**

##### **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

<i>Graduate:</i>	Metacriticism of New Testament Studies
<i>Undergraduate/Split:</i>	Cultural Histories of the New Testament (rotating): Mark Written and Rewritten John and its Earliest Readers Paul and His Imitators ( <i>Spring 2022</i> ) Early Christian Worship, Ritual, and Bodies The Cult of Saints: Narratives, Materialities, Practices Religious Frauds: Lies, Forgeries, and Fake News Christian Cultures: Eastern and Orthodox Christianities Introduction to the New Testament Birth of Christianity Jesus in Myth, Tradition, and History
<i>Independent Studies:</i>	Classical Syriac

##### **Yale Divinity School**

<i>Graduate/Professional:</i>	Galatians and Romans: Greek Exegesis Gospel and Epistles of John The Parting of the Ways: Synagogue and Church New Testament Poetics: Hymns and Prayers The Cult of Martyrs in Early Christianity Churches of the East ( <i>co-taught with Bryan Spinks</i> )
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## **University of Georgia**

*Undergraduate:* Judaism, Christianity, and Islam  
The Study of Language

## **Theses Supervised and/or Read**

### **Ph.D. Dissertations**

Reader, Luke Drake, Religious Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2022.

### **Undergraduate Honors Theses**

Reader, Santoro Giuggio, Religious Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2021.

Reader, Josh Howard, History, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2021.

Reader, Christopher Picorillo, German and Slavic Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2020.

Advisor, Brodie Heginbotham, Religious Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2019.

## **MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Society of Biblical Literature (SBL)

Catholic Biblical Association of America (CBA)

North American Patristics Society (NAPS)

Society of Oriental Liturgy (SOL)

## **LANGUAGE TRAINING**

### **Teaching and/or Research Languages**

Indo-European: Ancient Greek, Latin, Classical Armenian, Gothic, Old Church Slavic,  
Sanskrit (Classical, Vedic).

Semitic: Aramaic (Biblical Aramaic, Classical Syriac), Classical Hebrew,  
Akkadian.

### **Modern Languages**

Native: English, Spanish.

Reading Proficiency: French, German, Italian.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### **Service to the Profession**

Society of Biblical Literature

Co-Chair, "Connecting John: Intertextualities, Contexts, Reception" Consultation, 2022–



Steering Committee, "Johannine Literature" Section, 2021–

Elizabeth A. Clark Center for Late Ancient Studies, Duke University  
Board, 2019–

*Journal of Biblical Literature*  
Guest Reviewer, 2021

*Neotestamentica*  
Guest Reviewer, 2021

North American Academy of Liturgy  
Membership Committee, 2017–2019.

Catholic Biblical Association  
Co-Convener, "Race, Ethnicity, and Revelation" Round Table, 2016.

### **University Service**

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Faculty Council, 2022–25 term.  
IDEAs in Action Course Review Committee (WK), UNC-Chapel Hill, 2019–20.

### **Departmental Service**

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Department of Religious Studies  
Equity Committee, 2020–21, 2022–23.  
Space Committee, 2020–21, 2022–23.  
Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2018–21, 2022–23.  
Office of Undergraduate Research Liason, 2020–21.  
Faculty Search Committee, Islamic Studies Position, 2018–19.

### **Other Institutional Service**

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Faculty Advisor, Thomistic Institute, 2022–  
Faculty Advisor, Love for Ladies (Breast/ovarian cancer support), 2019–  
Faculty Advisor, Orthodox Christian Fellowship, 2018–  
Faculty Advisor, Ram's Recognition (Faculty appreciation), 2018–19.

Yale University  
Faculty Advisor, Yale Divinity School Comunidad Latina/Hispana, 2015–16.  
Visiting Fellow, Saybrook College, 2015–16.  
Visiting Fellow, Jonathan Edwards College, 2014–15.

**REFERENCES**

**Bart D. Ehrman**

James A. Gray Distinguished Professor of  
Religious Studies  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
117 Carolina Hall, CB #3225  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3225  
Phone: (919) 962-5666  
Email: [behrman@email.unc.edu](mailto:behrman@email.unc.edu)

**Harold W. Attridge**

Sterling Professor Emeritus of Divinity  
Yale Divinity School  
409 Prospect Street  
New Haven, CT, 06511  
Phone: 203-432-5180  
Email: [harold.attridge@yale.edu](mailto:harold.attridge@yale.edu)

**Mark Goodacre**

Chair and Frances Hill Fox Professor of  
Religious Studies  
Duke University  
Gray Bldg, Box 90964  
Durham, NC 27708-0964  
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**Barbara Ambros**

Chair and Professor of Religious Studies  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
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