

Hugo Méndez

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Current: 7 November 2023

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, 2013.

M.A., Religion, 2009.

Southern Adventist University

B.A., English, 2006.

HONORS AND FUNDING

Summer Residency, National Humanities Center, 2023.

Grant, Catholic Biblical Association, 2023.

Course Development Grant, Carolina Asia Center and NC Consortium for Middle East Studies, 2023.

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 Authored

Invented Letters of an Invented Disciple: A New History of the Epistles of John (manuscript at 73,000 words; developing proposal).

Gospel Truth: John as a Falsely Authored Text (under contract with New York: Oxford University Press; 83,000 words; manuscript due 1 August 2024).

(Co-authored with Bart D. Ehrman) *The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings*, 8th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2023. ISBN 978-0-19-775402-3 (Release date: 15 December 2023).

The Cult of Stephen in Jerusalem: Inventing a Patron Martyr. Oxford Early Christian Studies. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022. ISBN 978-0-19-284699-0. (<https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780192846990.001.0001>).

Reviewed in:

Journal of Early Christian Studies 31 (2023): 261–262 (DOI: [10.1353/earl.2023.a899420](https://doi.org/10.1353/earl.2023.a899420)).

Catholic Library World 93 (2023): 200.

Refereed Journal Articles

“The ‘Last Day’ in John: Future or Realized?” (11,050 words; under minor revision with *Journal of Theological Studies*).

“Jesus’s Secret Journey in John 7: A Symbol of the Ascension” (9,472 words; first view with *Harvard Theological Review*; expected 2023; <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0017816023000408>).

“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

“Renewing Johannine Historical Criticism: A Proposal.” In *The Johannine Community in Contemporary Debate*, Lexington, KY: Lexington (invited piece for volume under contract, accepted by editors; 7,191 words).

“1, 2, 3 John.” In *Judeophobia and the New Testament: Texts, Contexts, and Pedagogy*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans (invited piece for volume under contract, accepted and revised by editors; 2,038 words).

“Jewish Feasts on the Jerusalem Calendar? Challenging Another Myth of Jewish-Christian Origins,” for *Studies in Oriental Liturgy: Proceedings of the Eighth International Congress of the Society of Oriental Liturgy, Thessaloniki* (invited piece for volume, accepted by editors; 8,720 words).

“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 (<https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv27vt62m.7>).

“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., 167–178. Eastern Christian Studies 28. Leuven: Peeters, 2019 (<https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv1q26zsg.12>).

Unpublished Conference Presentations

“The *Epistula Apostolorum* as a ‘Johannine’ Text” XIX International Conference on Patristics Studies, Oxford, UK, *future*.

“3 John as a Pseudo-Historical Letter.” 2023 SBL Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX (Johannine Literature), *future*.

“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 Panel Responses

Invited response. Review panel of Sherri Brown's *Come and See: Invitations and Imperatives to Discipleship in the Gospel of John* (Biblical Studies from the Catholic Biblical Association; Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2022). CBA Unbound Book Review Series (Online), 2 May 2022.

Invited response. Review panel of Robyn Faith Walsh's *Origins of Early Christian Literature* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022), SBL Annual Meeting, Denver, CO (Redescribing Christian Origins), 20 November 2022.

Invited Response. Review panel of Hindy Najman and Irene Peirano Garrison, "Pseudepigraphy as an Interpretive Construct." BRANE Collective (Authorial Fictions and Attributions in the Ancient Mediterranean), 24 September 2021.

Invited External Presentations

Presentation. "A Gospel of Symbols: How John Constructs Narrative." University of Toronto (future).

Presentation (Virtual). "Angels Ascending and Descending': Human Exaltation in the Gospel of John." Birmingham Biblical Studies Seminar, University of Birmingham (virtual), 24 January 2024 (future).

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

Invited External Symposia/Workshops

Invited Paper. "What Should a Gospel Sequel Look Like? The Receptions of Luke and John as Test Cases." Reimagining Gospel Literature Symposium, Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley, CA, future.

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. "The Christianity That Never Was: Rethinking the 'Johannine Community'." Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 18 October 2023.

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.

Media Appearances

Documentary Interviews. "History's Greatest Mysteries," History Channel.

Season 4, Episode 6 (Airdate: 6 March 2023)

Season 4, Episode 20. (Airdate: 10 July 2023)

Season 4, TBA.

Season 4, TBA.

Documentary Interview. Untitled documentary, 1895 Films (in production).

Other Public-Facing Presentations

Video Lecture. "¿Cuál es el mensaje del evangelio y las cartas de Juan?" USCCB/Catholic.Bible (Sunday of the Word of God), *future*.

Public Lecture. "Unlocking the Symbolism of the Fourth Gospel." New Insights into the New Testament Conference. Bart Ehrman Blog, 23 August 2023.

Audio Lectures. "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.

CURRENT RESEARCH

Manuscripts Under Review

“2 and 3 John as Pseudo-Historical Letters” (9,852 words; under review with the *Journal of Biblical Literature* since 22 Oct. 2023).

Invited Manuscripts in Preparation

“2 and 3 John: Textual Issues and Specific Readings” (for the T&T Clark Handbook on Johannine Studies, under contract with T&T Clark).

Other Manuscripts in Preparation

“Does an Intact Copy of the Jerusalem Lectionary Survive in Armenian?” (10,175 words; preparing for peer review).

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Society of Biblical Literature (SBL)
 Catholic Biblical Association of America (CBA)
 North American Academy of Liturgy (NAAL)
 North American Patristics Society (NAPS)
 Society of Oriental Liturgy (SOL)
 Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas (SNTS)

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Courses Taught

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

<i>Graduate:</i>	Eastern Christianity and Postcolonial Theory Early Christian History and Literature (rotating): Metacriticism of New Testament Studies Teaching the New Testament in the Public University
<i>Undergrad/Graduate:</i>	The Cult of Saints: Narratives, Materialities, Practices Cultural Histories of the New Testament (rotating): Mark Written and Rewritten John and its Earliest Readers Paul and His Imitators
<i>Undergraduate:</i>	Early Christian Worship, Ritual, and Bodies Religious Frauds: Lies, Forgeries, and Fake News Christian Cultures Jesus in the Early Christian Gospels Birth of Christianity Introduction to the New Testament
<i>Independent Studies:</i>	Classical Syriac

Yale Divinity School

<i>Graduate/Professional:</i>	Galatians and Romans: Greek Exegesis Gospel and Epistles of John
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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 (*co-taught with Bryan Spinks*)

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, Ashley Davis Huff, Religious Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2021.

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.

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

Committees

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–

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

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

Editorial and Reviewer Responsibilities

Guest reviewer,
Journal of Theological Studies, 2023.
Journal for the Study of the New Testament, 2023.
Journal of Biblical Literature, 2021.
Neotestamentica, 2021.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Office of Faculty Governance
Faculty Council (3-year term), 2022–25.

Office of Postdoctoral Affairs
Faculty Mentor (3-year appointment), Carolina Postdoctoral Program for Faculty
Diversity, 2022–25.

Office of Undergraduate Curricula
IDEAs in Action Course Review Committee (WK), UNC-Chapel Hill, 2019–20.

Department of Religious Studies
Equity Committee,
Chair/Diversity Liaison (2-year term), 2023–25.
Member, 2020–21, 2022–23.
Undergraduate Studies Committee
Member, 2018–21, 2022–23.
Space Committee
Member, 2020–21, 2022–23.
Office of Undergraduate Research Liaison, 2020–21.
Faculty Search Committee, Islamic Studies Position, 2018–19.

Program for Public Discourse
Faculty Affiliate, 2023–present.

Office of Student Life and Leadership

Faculty Advisor, Love for Ladies (Breast/ovarian cancer support), 2019–present.

Faculty Advisor, Orthodox Christian Fellowship, 2018–present.

Faculty Advisor, Thomistic Institute, 2022.

Faculty Advisor, Ram’s Recognition (Faculty appreciation), 2018–19.

Yale University

Yale Divinity School

Faculty Advisor, Comunidad Latina/Hispana, 2015–16.

Saybrook College,

Visiting Fellow, 2015–16.

Jonathan Edwards College,

Visiting Fellow, 2014–15.

REFERENCES

Bart D. Ehrman

James A. Gray Distinguished Professor of
Religious Studies
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
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Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3225
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Mark Goodacre

Chair and Frances Hill Fox Professor of
Religious Studies
Duke University
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Durham, NC 27708-0964
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Harold W. Attridge

Sterling Professor Emeritus of Divinity
Yale Divinity School
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