

Jonathan L. Zecher
17707 Sunset River Lane
Houston, TX 77084
Phone: (281) 770-9819
jonathan.zecher@gmail.com

Areas of Research Interest:

- *Historical Theology and Spirituality*: theological anthropology, martyrdom and monasticism, apocalyptic; Byzantine theology, spirituality, and liturgy;
- *Patristics*: John Climacus, Barsanuphius and John of Gaza, Maximus the Confessor, Ascetic writers, Hesychast Movement, Nicodemus of Athos (and the *Philokalia*), Athanasius of Alexandria,
- *Eastern Orthodox Theology and Spirituality*: liturgy, funerary theology, contemporary philosophical theology
- *Church History (Early, Medieval, and Byzantine)*: martyrdom, ascetic movement and monastic developments, Byzantium and its neighbours (particularly Western Europe and Muslim empires), Byzantine influence in Slav lands

Education:

Ph.D., Theology, University of Durham, 2011

Concentrations: Historical theology (primarily Greek patristics), Church history, liturgical theology, contemporary Eastern Orthodox theology

Thesis: *The Symbolics of Death and the Construction of Christian Asceticism: Greek Patristic Voices from the Fourth through Seventh Centuries*

M.A. with Distinction, Theology and Religion, University of Durham, 2007

Courses: Theological Interpretation of Scripture, Theological Anthropology of the Fathers, The Self and Transformation (Topics in Christian Spirituality)

Dissertation: *Body, Soul, and the Image of God in the Greek Fathers of the 2nd to 4th Centuries*

B.A, Liberal Arts, St. John's College, Santa Fe, 2003

Majors: Philosophy and History of Mathematics

Minors: Languages (Greek and French) and History of Science

Dissertation: *The Thirsty Land Shall Blossom: The Transformation of Humanity in the Gospel of Luke*

Languages:

- Fluent in Classical, Koine and Byzantine Greek
- Fluent in French
- Fluent in Latin (Classical, Medieval)
- Proficient in German
- Reading knowledge in Italian, Spanish, Romanian

Teaching Experience:

Lecturer, 2011-Present

University of Houston Department of Modern and Classical Languages

- *Courses*: LATN 1301, 1302, 2301, 2302
- Taught beginning and intermediate-advanced Latin for reading knowledge to students in wide variety of majors

- Utilized *Latin for the New Millenium* as well as *Wheelock's Latin*; and developed a range of original resources, assessments, and exercises to help students.
- For 2302 classes, developed an assortment of intermediate readings with lexical and grammatical notes, allowing students to sample classical, medieval, and renaissance Latin in prose and poetry.

Lecturer, 2011-Present
University of Houston Honors College

- *Courses:* ENGL 1370 / HONR 2101-2301: *The Human Situation (Antiquity and Modernity)*
- Section leader and lecturer for a team-taught 'great books' course, delivering lectures on diverse topics from Christian Apocalypticism to Dante to modern Russian poetry
- Taught students by leading and facilitating discussions of 'great books' texts; assessed by papers, written tests, and oral examinations
- Assisted in the development of resources and assessment tools, contributed to the 'Profblog,' and worked with other team members in developing course syllabi.

Seminar Instructor, 2010-2011
University of Durham

- *Courses:* Christianity in Context; Church and Society in Late Antiquity; Early Christian Doctrine; Making of Modern Christianity; Introduction to Christian Theology; God, Freedom and the Soul
- Taught weekly classes ranging in size from six to sixteen students and in topics from church history to modern philosophy
- Course format was seminar—discussion-based, taking a short text each week for topic.
- Coordinated student presentations, presented additional information and advice, as well directing conversations.
- Marked student essays and met with students to discuss progress.

Seminar Instructor, 2009-2010
University of Durham

- *Courses:* Christianity in Context; Church and Society in Late Antiquity

Seminar Instructor, 2008-2009
University of Durham

- *Courses:* The Making of Modern Christianity; Christianity in Context; God in the World

Publications:

- 'The Angelic Life in Desert and Ladder', *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 21:1 (Spring, 2013)
- 'Death's Spiraling Narrative: On 'Reading' the Orthodox Funeral', *Studia Liturgica* (41:2 (Summer, 2012)
- 'Death and the Possibility of a Ladder', *Studia Patristica* 52 (forthcoming, 2012)
- 'Tradition and Creativity in the Construction and Reading of the *Philokalia*', in Brock Bingham and Bradley Nassif (eds.), *The Philokalia: Exploring the Classic Text of Orthodox Spirituality* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming, 2012)
- 'John Climacus and Sinaite Spirituality', in A.M. Casiday (ed.), *The Orthodox Christian World* (London: Routledge, forthcoming, 2012)

Book Reviews (examples)

- 'Review of D. Vincent Twomey (ed), *Salvation According to the Fathers of the Church*' *Journal of Theological Studies* (forthcoming)
- 'Review of A. Edward Siecienski, *The Filioque: History of a Doctrinal Controversy*', *Theology* (forthcoming)
- 'Review of Piotr Ashwin-Siejkowski, *Clement of Alexandria: A Project for Human Perfection*', *Journal of Theological Studies* 61:1 (2010)
- 'Review of John T. Fitzgerald (ed.), *Passions and Moral Progress in Greco-Roman Antiquity*', *Journal of Theological Studies* 61:1 (2010)
- 'Review of Jean-Luc Marion, *On the Ego and on God: Further Cartesian Questions*', *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 16:2 (2009), 265-267

Conference and Seminar Presentations:

- 2012: 'Giants and Birds: *Vita Antonii* and traditional Egyptian mortuary religion,' paper to be presented at the North American Patristics Society annual meeting, Chicago
- 2012: 'Christian Asceticism: Selves at the Limits of Agency', paper to be presented at the Houston Baptist University Second Annual Philosophy Conference
- 2011: 'The Role of Death and the Afterlife in Byzantine and Eastern Orthodox Identity-Formation', paper presented to the Medieval and Renaissance Reading Group, Durham
- 2011: 'The Angelic Life in Desert and Ladder', paper presented to the Durham Patristics Seminar
- 2010: 'Death and the Possibility of a Ladder', paper presented at the Third National Patristics Conference, Durham
- 2010: 'Angelic Life in the Desert and John Climacus', paper presented at the North American Patristics Society annual meeting, Chicago
- 2009: "'There must be no Christians": Martyrs, Scapegoats, and Rene Girard', paper presented at the Second National Patristics Conference, Cambridge
- 2009: 'In Praise of an Apostolic Man: Chrysostom's Rhetoric and the Rise of Ignatius' Cult at Antioch', paper presented at the Ecclesiastical History Society Conference, Durham
- 2008: 'Martyrs in the Liturgy; Liturgy in the Martyrs', paper presented at the Orthodox Theological Research Fellowship conference, Durham

Professional and Administrative Experience:

Over the last three years I have taken an active role in the life of my academic department and a special interest in organizing conferences for postgraduates and established scholars.

1. Conferences Organized

January 13-14, 2009, St. John's College, University of Durham – *Interdisciplinarity in Theology and Religion: How to tie knots that will hold*

Chair, Organizing Committee

- Lead organizer for an international-scale postgraduate-oriented conference of seventy delegates from six countries, co-funded by Durham University and the Arts and Humanities Research Council, with collaboration from Intute: Arts and Humanities Oxford and several publishers
- Keynote speakers were Profs. Sarah Coakley (Cambridge) and Douglas Davies (Durham)

April 27-29, 2009, University of Durham – *Eastern Orthodox and Western Christian Perspectives on Bioethics*

Conference Assistant

September 1-3, 2010, St. John's College, University of Durham – *Third British Patristics Conference*

Member, Organizing Committee

September 15-17, 2010, St. John's College, University of Durham – *Orthodox Theological Research Fellowship Annual Conference*

Sole Organizer

2. Administrative Experience

- **2007-2009:** Student-Staff Consultative Committee, Departmental Research Committee, Departmental Board of Studies
- **2009-present:** Departmental Ethics Committee
- **2008-present:** Orthodox Theological Research Fellowship Steering Committee

3. Professional Experience

- **2011: Durham University, Department of Theology and Religion**
- Research Assistant to Dr. Krastu Banev
- Duties include assistance with developing and administering courses, locating research materials and book reviews, summarizing books and articles, proofreading, and assisting with travel.

- **2003-2006: Engel & Lofton, LLP; Engel Law Firm, PC; Arthur B. Lofton, PA**
- Office manager for law firm in Santa Fe, specializing in contractual, corporate, real estate, estate planning, and probate law: managing all day-to-day operations including billing, calendars, filing, legal preparation, dictation, and client meetings
- During the same period I became a paralegal for the firm: preparing legal documents including wills, trusts, and pleadings; client intake and meetings
- Simultaneously contracted as the firm's bookkeeper: paid invoices and wages, managed income and IOLTA Trust Account, bank reconciliations, taxes, employee records

Grants and Fellowships Received:

- **2007: Department of Theology and Religion, University of Durham, De Bury Scholarship**
- **2008: University of Durham, Overseas Research Studentship**, tuition for two years of doctorate
- **2008: Arts and Humanities Research Council**, Collaborative Student Scheme, for postgraduate conference
- **2009: Department of Theology and Religion, University of Durham, Van Mildert Scholarship**

References

Rev. Prof. Andrew Louth

Professor of Patristic and Byzantine Studies
Department of Theology and Religion
Durham University
Abbey House
Palace Green
Durham DH1 3RS
+44 (0) 1325 481 080
andrew.louth@dur.ac.uk

Prof. Lewis Ayres

Bede Professor of Catholic Theology
Department of Theology and Religion
Durham University
Abbey House
Palace Green
Durham DH1 3RS
+44 (0)191 33 43331
l.o.ayres@durham.ac.uk

Dr. William Monroe

Professor of English;
Dean of the Honors College
University of Houston
212 MD Anderson Library
Houston, TX 77204-2001
(713) 743-9007
wmonroe@uh.edu

Dr. Krastu Banev

Lecturer in Greek Patristics
Department of Theology and Religion
Durham University
Abbey House
Palace Green
Durham DH1 3RS
+44 (0) 191 33 43967
krastu.banev@dur.ac.uk