

ABJAR BAHKOU

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. *Pontifical Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies*, Arabic and Islamic Studies, Rome, Italy (2011).
Dissertation: “Critical Edition, Study, and English Translation of the Christian Apology of Gerasimus, *Kitāb al-Kāfī Fī al-Ma'nā al-Shāfī* (The Complete Book of the Healing Meaning)”
Dissertation Director: Dr. Samir Khalil
- Ph.D. *Salesian Pontifical University*, Education, Rome, Italy (1998).
Focusing on Youth Education in the Contemporary Middle Eastern Culture.
Dissertation: “Ipotesi di Educazione Religiosa Cristiana Nell Contesto Giovanile Arabo-Siriano” (A Proposal for the Religious Education of Young People in the Arabo-Syrian Context).
Dissertation Director: Dr. Zelindo Trenti
Examining Committee: Zelindo Trenti, Cyril De Souza, Jose Bajzek
- M.A. *Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary*, Islamic Studies, Fort Worth, Texas (2006).
Thesis: “The Christian Legend of Monk Bahira in Christian and Muslim Sources: An English Translation and Study of the Syriac Manuscripts of Mardin 295/2.”
Internal Examiner: Dr. Tony Maalouf (SWBTS, Fort Worth, Texas)
External Examiner: Dr. Abdul-Massih Saadi, (University of Notre Dame, Indiana)
- M.A. *Salesian Pontifical University*, Education, Focusing on Youth Education in the Contemporary Middle Eastern Culture, Rome, Italy (1996).
Thesis: “L’Educazione Religiosa dei Giovani Siriani: Analisi della Condizione Religiosa Giovanile in Riferimento alle Istituzioni Educative” (The Religious Education of Syrian Youth: Analysis of the Young Religious Conditions in Reference to the Educational Institutions).
- B.A. *Salesian Pontifical University*, Education, Rome, Italy (1995).
- Diploma in Theology, *St. Ephraim Theological Seminary*, Damascus, Syria (1993).

AWARDS

Concordia Theological Seminary, Saint Louis, Missouri, Honorary Doctorate of Letter (May 16, 2013)

ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK COMPLETED

- *Baylor University*, Academy for Teaching and Learning, Summer Faculty Institute (June 2012)
- *University of Texas Austin*, Arabic Teachers of Texas Professional Development Workshop, Arabic Flagship Program, Dept. of Middle Eastern Studies (2012)
- *University of Texas Austin*, Arabic Teachers Professional Development Workshop, Arabic Flagship Program, Dept. of Middle Eastern Studies (2009).
- *Texas Christian University*, Brite Divinity School, Ft. Worth, Texas (2004).
- *Loyola Marymount University*, Department of Theological Studies (2002).
- *Fuller Theological Seminary*, Pasadena, California (2001).
- *Kimmage Manor*, School of Theology, Intercultural Studies, Dublin, Ireland (1998).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Journal of Cultural and Religious Studies, Editorial Board Member, David Publishing Company IL, (2015)

Concordia Theological Seminary, Adjunct Professor of Muslim-Christian Dialogue (2014).

Baylor University, Resident Research Fellow, Institute for Studies of Religion, Program on Global Studies of Religion (2009 to present).

Baylor University, Regular Lecturer of Arabic Literature, Culture, and Language (2009-2015).

Baylor University, Senior Lecturer of Arabic Literature, Culture, and Language (2015 to present).

University of North Texas, Adjunct Professor of Arabic Literature, Culture, and Language (2009).

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas (2006–2008).

Instructor in Islamic Studies.

Courses taught: Intermediate Arabic. Islamic History, Culture, Philosophy; Christian Inquiry into Islamic Faith and Practice; History of Christianity in Pre-Islamic Period.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas (2006–2007).

Teaching Assistantship 2006 – 2007.

Courses assisted: Christian Inquiry into Islamic Faith; Islamic History, Culture, Philosophy. The Qur'an: Islamic Sources. The Hadith: Islamic Sources. History of Christianity in Pre-Islamic Period, Eastern & Western Christianity. Arabs in Biblical History. Church History.

Salesian Pontifical University, Rome, Italy (1996 – 1998).

Teaching Assistantship.

Courses assisted: Philosophy of Religion, Sociology of Religion, Anthropology, and Seminar in Youth Education.

St. Ephraim Theological Seminary, Damascus, Syria (1998 – 1999).

Instructor in World Religion and Interreligious Dialogue.

Course taught: Christian Muslim Dialogue. Introduction to World Religions. Christian Youth Education in the Contemporary Arabic Context.

LANGUAGES

- Arabic Fluent reading, writing, and speaking
- Syriac (Classical Aramaic) Fluent reading, writing, and speaking
- English Fluent reading, writing, and speaking
- Italian Fluent reading, writing, and speaking
- French Strong reading knowledge
- Hebrew (Biblical) Strong reading knowledge

ORGANIZATIONS

Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa

American Academy of Religion

Evangelical Theological Society

North American Patristic Society

Gruppo di Ricerca Arabo-Cristiana, Italy, Lebanon, (Arabic-Christian Group of Researchers)

North American Society for Christian Arabic Studies

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

- *Sam Encounters Ishmael. The Encounter of Syriac Christianity with Islam in the 7th -9th century.* Presented at the ninth Annual Conferences of the Association for the Study of Middle East and Africa, Washington D.C. (October 28-29, 2016).
- *Engaging Islam in the Apologetical Discourses of Gerasimus.* Paper Presented at the XII International Symposium of Syriac Studies, and the X Congress of Arabic Christian Studies, Pontificio Istituto Orientale, Rome Italy (August 19-24, 2016).
- *The Encounters of the Syriac Churches with Islam in the 7th -9th century, learning from the Past.* Paper presented at Symposium Organized by Baylor Institute of Study of Religion, titled, *The Syriac Christian Churches, Rediscovering the Church's Eastern Roots*, Waco TX (April 20th, 2016).
- *The Monk Encounters the Prophet, The Story of the Encounter between Monk Bahīra and Muhammad as it is Recorded in the Syriac Manuscript of Mardin 259/2.* Paper presented at the eighth Annual Conferences of the Association for the Study of Middle East and Africa, Washington D.C. (October 30-November 2, 2015).
- *The True Religion in the Apology of Gerasimus "The Complete Book of the Healing Meanings."* Paper Presented at the third International Symposium Syro-Arabicum,

Organized by the Department of Syro-Antiochene of the Faculty of Religious and Oriental Sciences of the Holy Spirit University in Beirut, Lebanon, in Collaboration with the Center for Documentation and research on Arab Christianity of the Faculty of Religious Sciences at University of Saint Joseph (Beirut, Lebanon, February 3-7, 2015).

- *Discerning the True Religion in the Apologetical Discourses of Gerasimus*, Paper presented at the Seventh Annual Conferences of the Association for the Study of Middle East and Africa, *Searching for Balance in Middle East and Africa*, Washington D.C. (October 30-November 2, 2014).
- *Jesus in Islam*, Annual Lecture on World Religions, organized by the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology at Concordia Theological Seminary, Saint Louis, Missouri (March 26, 2014)
- *Multi Ethnic Symposium*, Concordia Theological Seminary, Saint Louis, Missouri, (January 27-28, 2014).
- *Using Fiction as a Vehicle for Popularizing History, Jujry Zaidan's Historical Novels*. Paper presented at the Sixth Annual Conferences of the Association for the Study of Middle East and Africa. *Tide of Changes: Looking back and forging ahead in the Middle East and Africa*, Washington D.C. (November 21-23, 2013).
- *Jurji Zaydan: Activist and Reformer during the Arab Renaissance*, A Paper Presented to Thirty Seventh International Conference of ARAM Society for Syro-Mesopotamian Studies: Christian Contribution to Arab Renaissance, Oxford University, England, (July 15-18, 2013)
- *Syriac Christianity: its Origins and Historical Development*, Symposium on World Religions, Concordia Theological Seminary, Saint Louis (March 11-15, 2013).
- *Theological Principles for Muslim Christian Dialogue*, Symposium on World Religions, Concordia Theological Seminary, Saint Louis (March 11-15, 2013).
- Commencement Speaker at *Concordia Theological Seminary* (May 16, 2013)
- *Do Christian and Muslims Worship the Same God? Understanding of God in Christianity and Islam*, A symposiums on the Future of the Church sponsored by the Center for Ministry Effectiveness and Educational Leadership and the Kyle Lake Center for Effective Preaching, George W. Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University (April 23, 2012)
- *Cristiani e Musulmani nel Mondo Arabo ieri ed oggi: Conflitti e Incontri Culturali e Religiosi* (Christians and Muslims in the Arab World, Yesterday and Today: Conflicts and religious encounters) Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome, Italy, February 27–28, 2009.
- Baptist-Muslim National Dialogue, Sponsored by the Baptist and Islamic Organizations Andover Newton Theological School, Boston, Massachusetts, January 9–11, 2009.
- “Kitāb al-Kāfī Fī al-Ma’nā al-Shāfī (The Complete Book of the healing Meaning) the Christian Apology of Gerasimus,” An International Colloquium on the Literary Production of Melkites in the Pre-Ottoman Era (AD 750-1561), Beirut, Lebanon, January 2008.
- “The Use of Analogies in Christian-Arabs and Muslims Debates in the Middle Ages,” Christian Arabic Panel at the Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, St. Louis, Missouri, March 12-15, 2010.

THESIS SUPERVISED

Marvel for Remnant: the History and Hope of the Church in the Middle East, By, Bethany Simons. In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Honors Program at Baylor University (April 2014).

Examining Committee of the Honors Program at Baylor University theses, titled, *Liturgical Exegesis: Genesis 1-11 as Sung in the Qur'an*, (April 2016).

Supervising

Honor theses in History entitled: *Muslim Christians Encounters in the Levant in the First Abbasid Period, Learning from the Past*. Student name: Barnett Carlton.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Defending Christian Faith, The fifth Part of the Christian Apology of Gerasimus, De Gruyter Open, Berlin, Germany 2014.

Kitāb al-Kāfī Fī al-Ma'nā al-Shāfī (The Complete Book of the Healing Meaning) The Christian Apology of Gerasimus, Excerpt of the Doctorate Dissertation [Published the English translation of the text] Pontifical Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Rome 2012.

On the Road to Emmaus, Youth Devotional Journey through Christian Faith, iUniverse, Bloomington, IN 2010.

Ipotesi di Education Religiosa Cristiana Nel Contesto Giovanile Arabo Siriano, (=A Proposal for the Religious Education of Young People in the Arabo-Syrian Context) Estratto dalla Dissertazione Dottorale, Università Pontificia Salesiana, Roma 1998.

The Monk Encounters the Prophet, The Story of the Encounter between Monk Bahīra and Muhammad as it is Recorded in the Syriac Manuscript of Mardin 259/2 (Edwin Mellen Press, NY, Spring 2017.)

Work in progress

- *The Crescent Meets the Cross: Christian Muslim Encounters in the Arab Middle East.*
- *Christian and Islamic Feminism Historical and Theological Roots, Divergences, and Commonalities.* (In collaboration with Dr. Alessandra L. González).

Upcoming Articles

- *Engaging Islam in the Apologetical Discourses of Gerasimus.* Parole de l'Orient (Spring 2017)

Upcoming Books

- *Explaining the Reason of our Hope: The Apologetical Discourses of Gerasimus.* Center for Middle Eastern Christianity (CMEC), Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, (ETSC.) Egypt, Cairo (Spring 2017).

- *Life with God* (in Arabic) A discipleship Program based on Luther Catechism, Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Detroit 2017.

Articles

The Islamic Claim of Jesus and the Christian Response, *Concordia Journal*, Saint Louis (fall 2016, vol 42. Number 4): 322-331.

“The Signs of True Religion in the Apology of Gerasimus “The Complete Book of the Healing Meanings.” *Parole de l’Orient* 42 (2016): 1-26.

“The Monk Encounters the Prophet, The Story of the Encounter between Monk Bahīra and Muhammad as it is Recorded in the Syriac Manuscript of Mardin 259/2.” *Journal of Cultural and Religious Studies*, (David Publishing Company IL, Nov.-Dec. 2015, Vol. 3, No. 6, 349-357).

“Discerning the True Religion in the Apologetical Discourses of Gerasimus,” *Journal Of Oriental and African Studies*, (Athens, Greece, vol. 23, 2014: 49-70).

“Using Fiction as a Vehicle for Popularizing History: Jujry Zaidan’s Historical Novels,” *The Levantine Review: The Journal of Near Eastern and Mediterranean Studies at Boston College*. (Volume 4. Spring 2015: 67-85)

“Jurji Zaydan: Activist and Reformer during the Arab Renaissance,” (ARAM 25:1&2 (2013), 349-362) *ARAM: the Periodical of Aram Society for Syro-Mesopotamian Studies at the Oriental Institute in Oxford University, England*.

Co-authored with John Lamoraux, "Gerasimos, the Abbot of Monastery of St. Symeon," in: David Thomas and Alex Mallett (Eds.) *Christians Muslims Relations, a Biographical History, Vol. 5 (1350-1500)*. L.J. Brill. Leiden, Boston 2013, 661-666.

“Kitāb al-Kāfī Fī al-Ma’ nā al-Shāfī (The Complete Book of the Proper Meaning: A Christian Apology of Gerasimus,” in, Samir K. Samir (ed.) *The Literary Production of Melkites in the Pre-Ottoman Era (AD 750 – 1561)*, *Actes du Colloque Melkite*, 34 (Parole de L’Orient) 2009, 309-345.

TRANSLATION WORK

From English into Arabic [books]

- Nora Lozano, *Good News for Women*, Global Women, Birmingham, AL 2007. (2010)
- Laurence L. White, *Life with God*, Houston, Texas 1995. (2007)
- Sister Magdalene, *Children in the Church Today*, St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, Crestwood, New York 1991. (2002)

REFERENCES

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