

ROSS P. PONDER

Ph.D. Student

Department of Religious Studies
University of Texas at Austin

1001 Leadership Place

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I. EDUCATION

- (Ph.D.) **University of Texas at Austin**, Department of Religious Studies (expected in May 2018)
Area of Concentration: Religion in the Ancient Mediterranean, Ancient Christianity
Adviser: Steven J. Friesen
- M.A. **University of Texas at Austin**, Department of Religious Studies (2014)
Adviser: Steven J. Friesen
Report Title: "Visions of the End: The Dreams and Death of Vibia Perpetua"
- M.Div. **Boston University**, School of Theology (2011)
Area of Concentration: New Testament and Christian Origins
- B.A. **University of Texas at Austin**, Departments of Classics and Religious Studies (2007)

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

- Coursework **Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley, CA** (2011-2012)
Area of Concentration: Biblical Languages and Studies

II. PUBLICATIONS

- Review of J. Albert Harrill, *Paul the Apostle: His Life and Legacy in Their Roman Context*. (Cambridge, 2012) in *Review of Biblical Literature* [January 2014].
http://www.bookreviews.org/pdf/8815_9705.pdf
- "Fragment of an Apocryphal Gospel (Papyrus Oxyrhynchus 5072): A New Translation and Introduction." In *More New Testament Apocrypha*. Edited by Tony Burke and Brent Landau. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans [invited; 8,000 words; forthcoming 2016]
- "Hellish Rhetoric: The Pedagogical Function of the Underworld in 4Q184." In *From Enoch to Montréal and Back: New Vistas on Early Judaism and Christianity. Papers from the Fifth Enoch Graduate Seminar, Montréal, 20-24 May 2014*. Edited by Lorenzo DiTommaso and Gerbern S. Oegema. Jewish and Christian Texts in Contexts and Related Studies. London/New York: T&T Clark. [invited; 8,000 words; forthcoming 2016]

III. HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2015 College of Liberal Arts Excellence Fellowship, UT-Austin.
- 2015 Intellectual Entrepreneurship Travel Grant, UT-Austin
- 2014 Summer Fellowship, Institute for the Study of Antiquity and Christian Origins (ISAC), UT-Austin.
- 2014 Travel Grant for the Graduate Enoch Seminar in Montreal, UT-Austin.
- 2014 Travel Grant for the Society of Biblical Literature Regional Meeting, UT-Austin.
- 2013 Professional Development Award, UT-Austin.
- 2013 Summer Fellowship, ISAC.
- 2013 Travel Grant to present at the Society of Biblical Literature Regional Meeting, ISAC.
- 2012 Summer Fellowship, ISAC.
- 2011–2012 Merit Scholarship, Graduate Theological Union
- 2010 Merit Based “Springboard” Funding for C.P.E., Boston University.
- 2009 Travel Grant for Society of Biblical Literature National Meeting, Boston University.
- 2007–2011 Academic Merit Scholarship (full tuition and stipend), Boston University.

IV. PROFESSIONAL PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS (* REFEREED ABSTRACTS)

- 2016 * “A Reexamination of Papyrus 69 (Papyrus Oxyrhynchus 2383).” National Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. San Antonio, TX. 19-22 November.
- 2016 * “Blood, Sweat, and Jeers: A Reexamination of Papyrus 69 (Papyrus Oxyrhynchus 2383).” Southwest Commission on Religious Studies. Irving, TX. 11-13 March.
- 2015 * “A New Transcription of P.Oxy. 5072: Some Observations from a Recent Autopsy Analysis.” National Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. Atlanta, GA. 21-24 November.
- 2015 * “Reconsidering P. Oxy. 5072: Creation and Reception, Visual and Physical Features.” York Christian Apocrypha Symposium. Toronto, Canada. 24–26 September.

- 2015 * “So-Called Jews, So What? Reconstructing Satanic Synagogues Amidst the *Fiscus Judaicus*.” Southwest Commission on Religious Studies. Irving, TX. 13-15 March.
- 2014 * “Visions of the End: On Death and Animated Dreams in Tertullian and Perpetua.” National Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. San Diego, CA. 23 November.
- 2014 “P. Oxy. LXXVI 5072 Reconsidered.” Papyrology Seminar. University of Oxford. 11 July (invited).
- 2014 * “Hellish Rhetoric: The Pedagogical Function of the Underworld in 4Q184.” Fifth Enoch Graduate Seminar. Montreal, Canada. 20-24 May.
- 2014 * “The Usable Pasts of Corinth and Israel: Hearing Paul’s Rhetoric in the Splash of the Glauke Fountain.” Southwest Commission on Religious Studies. Irving, TX. 8 March.
- 2013 * “‘Birthing’ Onesimus: Baptism, Patronage, and Divine Benefaction in Philemon’s Household.” National Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature. Baltimore, MD. 24 November.
- 2013 “The Moral Dimensions of Slavery in Ancient Christianity.” St. David’s Episcopal Church. Austin, TX, 7 July (invited).
- 2013 “Constructing Continua,” Respondent to three papers at the “Beyond Binaries: Toward a Continuum Model of Religious Studies” conference. UT-Austin. 24 March.
- 2013 * “Hearing and Receiving the Word: Cultivation and Penetration in the Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:1-20).” Southwest Commission on Religious Studies. Irving, TX. 10 March.
- 2013 Respondent to L. Michael White’s “Capitalizing on the Imperial Cult: Some Jewish Perspectives.” Religious Studies Department Colloquium. UT-Austin. 4 March.
- 2012 * “Snatched into Paradise: the Legitimizing Function of Paul’s Apocalyptic Visions in Antiquity.” Pacific Coast Region of the Society of Biblical Literature. Santa Clara, CA. 24 March.
- 2012 * “Hearing and Receiving the Word: a Gendered Reading of Cultivation in Mark 4:1-20.” Women’s Studies in Religion conference at the Graduate Theological Union. Berkeley, CA. 2 March.
- 2009 “Prytaneion and the State Agora of Imperial Ephesus.” Material Culture Symposium. Boston University. 4 October (invited).
- 2007 “*Peri tôn Graphôn*: Eusebius of Caesarea’s Place in New Testament Canon History.” Classics Department Colloquium. UT-Austin. 11 April.

V. TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant. "Introduction to the Study of Religion." Dr. Brent Landau. UT-Austin. Spring 2016.

Teaching Assistant. "Early American History." Prof. Robert Olwell. UT-Austin. Fall 2015.

Teaching Assistant. "The End of the World As We Know It: The Book of Revelation in History and in American Culture." Prof. Steven J. Friesen. UT-Austin. Fall 2014.

Teaching Assistant and Supplemental Discussion Section Leader. "Debating the Bible in 21st Century America." Dr. Brent Landau. UT-Austin. Spring 2014.

Teaching Assistant and Supplemental Discussion Section Leader. "The Rise of Christianity." Prof. L. Michael White. UT-Austin. Spring 2013.

Teaching Assistant. "Religion, Science, and the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence." Prof. John W. Traphagan. UT-Austin. Fall 2012.

VI. PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Archaeological Experience:

2012 Ostia, Italy—excavations of the synagogue area at Ostia Antica; excavator.

2007 Ostia, Italy—excavations of the synagogue area at Ostia Antica; excavator.

Conference Planning:

2014 Lead Organizer for "Remixing Religion: New Models for the Study of Religious Synthesis"

Research Experience:

2014-2015 Summer study in Papyrology with Dirk Obbink and Geoffrey Smith. Oxford University.

Ministerial Experience:

2010 Completed one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at Massachusetts General Hospital.

2008 Ministry Associate to Undergraduate Students at Marsh Chapel, Boston University, 2008-2009.

VII. PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2015–present Chair, Student Advisory Board, Society of Biblical Literature.
- 2014–2015 Treasurer, Graduate Committee for the Study of Religion, UT-Austin.
- 2013–2014 Vice Chair, Student Advisory Board, Society of Biblical Literature.
- 2013–2014 Chair of the ad-hoc Language committee, Graduate Committee for the Study of Religion, UT-Austin.
- 2010–2011 Secretary for the Partakers Group (elected), Boston University.
- 2010 Student reviewer of faculty member for the rank of Associate Professor (appointed), Boston University.
- 2009–2010 Vice President for Theological Students Association (elected), Boston University.
- 2008–2009 M.Div. Representative to the Theological Students Association (elected), Boston University.
- 2008 Society of Biblical Literature On-Campus Student Representative to Boston University (appointed).

VIII. PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion
North American Patristics Society
Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions
Society of Biblical Literature

IX. LANGUAGES

Ancient: Coptic (Sahidic), Greek (Attic and Koine), Hebrew (biblical, Qumranic, and rabbinic), and Latin (classical and ecclesiastical).
Modern: French and German.

X. ACADEMIC RESEARCH INTERESTS

Ancient Judaism, Greek and Roman Judaism, Second-Temple Judaism
Apocalypticism in Early Judaism and Christianity
Dreams, Visions, and Epiphanies
Identity, Ethnicity, and Gender in Classical Antiquity
Material Culture and the Social World of Ancient Christianity
Religious Experience in Antiquity