

# ROBERT D. HEATON

Ph.D. in Religious & Theological Studies  
Specialties in New Testament, Christian Origins & Early Christianity  
Email: [dr.robheaton@gmail.com](mailto:dr.robheaton@gmail.com) | Website: [robheaton.com](http://robheaton.com)

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## *Curriculum Vitae*

### PERSONAL ANIMUS

Affirming that the Bible deserves deep, serious, and critical commitment, I seek to dedicate my life's work to postsecondary education to bridge students' knowledge gaps about biblical texts and religious traditions, with pedagogical rigor. I intend to conduct meaningful research throughout a career committed to enhancing public, ecclesial, and academic comprehension about important under-researched subjects and unanswered questions within early Christianity and Judaism, such as texts at the canonical boundary.

### EDUCATION

- June 2019 | Ph.D., University of Denver and the Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colorado  
| Concentration: Biblical Interpretation—New Testament and Christian Origins  
| Comps: Second-Century Christianity, Council of Nicaea, and 1/2 Thess. GPA: 3.95 / 4.0
- May 2013 | M.T.S., Anderson University School of Theology, Anderson, Indiana  
| Professional Distinctions in Biblical Studies and Biblical Languages  
| *Academic Honors*, GPA: 3.955 / 4.0
- December 2006 | B.A., Miami University, Oxford, Ohio  
| Major: Strategic Communication, *Cum Laude*, GPA: 3.55 / 4.0

### PUBLICATIONS

#### *Monograph (Revised Dissertation)*

- April 2023 | *The Shepherd of Hermas as Scriptura Non Grata: From Popularity in Early Christianity to Exclusion from the New Testament Canon* ([Lexington Books/Rowman, 2023](#)).

#### *Article*

- August 2023 | "Toward the New Testament Canon as Fourth-Century Invention: The Scriptural List of Athanasius and Its Reverberations," [Religion & Theology 30.1-2 \(2023\): 30–54](#).

#### *Book Reviews*

- Forthcoming** | Michael Kochenash, *Roman Self-Representation and the Lukan Kingdom of God*, [Rhea](#)
- April 2019 | Drew Billings, *Acts of the Apostles and the Rhetoric of Roman Imperialism*, [AJR](#)

#### *Podcast Episodes for New Books in Biblical Studies (Links available from [robheaton.com/podcasts](http://robheaton.com/podcasts))*

1. Lee Martin McDonald, *Before There Was a Bible* (T&T Clark, 2023)
2. Christoph Heilig, *The Apostle and the Empire* (Eerdmans, 2023)
3. Eric Vanden Eykel, *The Magi* (Fortress Press, 2022)
4. Robert Myles and James Crossley, *Jesus: A Life in Class Conflict* (Zero Books, 2023)
5. Yonatan Adler, *The Origins of Judaism* (Yale University Press, 2022)
6. Joshua Schachterle, *John Cassian and the Creation of Monastic Subjectivity* (Equinox, 2023)
7. Michael Kochenash, *Roman Self-Representation and the Lukan Kingdom of God* (Lexington, 2020)
8. Tom Boomershine, *First-Century Gospel Storytellers and Audiences* (Cascade, 2022)
9. Matthew Thiessen, *A Jewish Paul: The Messiah's Herald to the Gentiles* (Baker Academic, 2023)

*Plus forthcoming episodes with Richard Ascough, Clare Rothschild, Angela Kim Harkins, and more.*

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Summer & Fall 2023 | **Adjunct Professor** of New Testament and Christian Origins, Anderson University  
NEWT 7650: The Gospel According to John [Directed Study/Guided Research]  
NEWT/OLDT 5310: Archaeology, the A.N.E., & Early Christianity [Directed Studies]
- Fall 2022 & Spring 2023 | **Adjunct Professor** of New Testament and Christian Origins, Anderson University  
NEWT 5150: The Early Church and the Roman Empire [Online], Grad Students  
NEWT 5100: Introduction to the New Testament [Online], M.Div./M.T.S. Students
- Fall 2020 & Fall 2021 | **Adjunct Professor** of Early Christianity, University of Denver  
RLGS 3203: Christianity [Online/Synchronous], Mixed Undergrads & MA Students  
RLGS 2310: World Christianities [Residential], Undergraduates Only (Two Sections)  
RLGS 3002: Creation & Humanity [Residential], Mixed Undergrad & Grad Students
- Fall 2015 – Winter 2020 | **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology  
New Testament, Dr. Gregory Robbins, *Spring 2018 & Winter 2020*  
Introduction to the Hebrew Bible [Residential], Dr. Mark George, *Fall 2017*  
Major Figures in the Bible & Qur'an, Drs. Greg Robbins and Andrea Stanton, *Fall 2016*  
Introduction to the Hebrew Bible [Online], Dr. Amy Erickson, *Winter 2016*  
Islam and U.S. Politics, Dr. Andrea Stanton, *Fall 2015*  
The Nature and Limits of Human Knowledge, Dr. Michael Brent, *Spring 2017*
- Fall 2011 – Spring 2013 | **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Anderson University Department of Religious Studies  
Introduction to the Bible, Dr. Fred Shively, *4 semesters*  
The Gospel of Mark, Dr. Fred Shively, *1 semester*

## PARAEDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Fall 2014 – Spring 2020 | University of Denver Libraries Reference Department  
**Evening and Weekend Reference Librarian**, *3 quarters*  
**Research Center Desk/Library Reference Assistant II**, *5 years*
- Fall 2017 – Spring 2018 | Learning Effectiveness Program at the University of Denver  
**Writing/Research/Languages Tutor**, *3 quarters*
- Fall 2011 – Spring 2013 | Kissinger Learning Center at Anderson University  
**SOT Writing Tutor**, *4 semesters*  
**Hebrew I/II Tutor**, *2 semesters*

## INVITED LECTURES

- Fall 2023 | Lunch & Learn, Anderson University School of Theology & Christian Ministry  
“A Book on the Boundary: *The Shepherd* of Hermas and the Formation of the N.T. Canon”
- Fall 2012 | Annual Jeeninga Fellowship Public Lectures, Anderson University, Anderson, Indiana  
“Tel Hazor: A Tale of Two Cities” & “A Field Journal From Area M”
- Fall 2012 | Guest Lecturer, Anderson University Department of Religious Studies  
Course on Archaeology and the Ancient Near East: “Sea Peoples in the Levant”

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## PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- November 2022 | Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado  
| Title: “‘Transmitted to the Fathers’: The New Testament Canon as Ancient  
| Invention,” Presented to a Section on “Inventing Christianity”
- November 2021 | Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas  
| Title: “On the Creation of Early Christian Doctrine: A Third-Century Episcopal  
| Response to the Perniciousness of Gambling”
- March 2020 | Society of Biblical Literature Regional Meeting, Colorado Springs, Colorado  
*Postponed* | Title: “What’s Criteria Got to Do With It? Athanasius, The Declaration of an Episcopal  
| Canon, and the Curious Case of the *Shepherd* of Hermas”
- November 2019 | Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Diego, California  
| Title: “The Salvific Tower of the *Shepherd* of Hermas in Early Christian Reception”  
| Presented to a Program Unit Session on Christian Apocrypha
- November 2018 | Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado  
| Title: “‘Useful for the Tower’: Belonging to the ‘Name’ in the *Shepherd* of Hermas”  
| Presented to a Session on the Construction of Christian Identities
- June 2018 | International Society for Heresy Studies Third Biennial Meeting, London, England  
| Title: “Bede, John of Damascus, and the Ongoing Appeal of Heresiological Tactics in  
| Eighth-Century Christianity”
- March 2017 | Society of Biblical Literature Regional Meeting, Boulder, Colorado  
| Title: “The Son, All Spelled Out: Reading the ‘Unchristened’ Text of the *Shepherd* of  
| Hermas”
- April 2016 | Society of Biblical Literature Regional Meeting, Denver, Colorado  
| Title: “The Disappearance of the *Shepherd*: Interrogating the Extracanonicity of ‘Le  
| Manuel de Vie Chrétienne’ (Henne)”
- November 2015 | Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia  
| Title: “Christian Heresiology in Context: *Religio*, *Superstitio*, and Roman Rhetoric  
| of Difference”  
| Presented to a Session on Jesus Traditions and Gospels called “Resistance and  
| Accommodation to Roman Rule”
- March 2015 | Society of Biblical Literature Regional Meeting, Omaha, Nebraska  
| Title: “Teaching Heresy: Toward a Critical Pedagogy for Historiographical Theological  
| Instruction on the Church’s Early Sects”
- November 2013 | Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland  
| Title: “The Presumed Adoptionist Christology of the Ebionites: Where’s  
| the Patristic Evidence?”  
| Presented to a Session of the Jewish Christianity/Christian Judaism Group

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## INSTRUCTIONAL & RESEARCH SPECIALTIES

- Christian Origins and Early Christianities (1st–4th Century)
- New Testament (Survey or Advanced)
- Formation of the Biblical Canon
- Christian Classics—Selected Texts
- Koinē Greek and Ecclesiastical Latin
- *The Shepherd* of Hermas, Apostolic Fathers, & Other Non-Canonical Christian Texts
- Heresiology/Heresy and Orthodoxy
- Patristic Interpretation of Scripture
- Modern World Christianities
- Early Jewish-Christianity

## ADDITIONAL COMPETENCIES

- NT Textual Criticism
- World Religions (Survey or Advanced)
- The Abrahamic Faiths
- Religion, Politics, and Ethics
- Theism and Atheism
- Christianity, the Bible and Pop Culture
- Hebrew Bible
- Creation and Human Society
- Dead Sea Scrolls/Qumran
- Archaeology and the Bible
- Church History (Survey or Thematic Study)
- Christianity and the Ancient Philosophies
- Major Figures in the Bible and Qur'an
- Lived Religion (Ancient or Modern)

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Society of Biblical Literature
- North American Patristics Society
- International Society for Heresy Studies

## MAJOR RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- July 2018 – | Ph.D. Candidate, Joint Doctoral Program in the Study of Religion, Dissertation Research  
June 2019 | Dissertation: “From ‘Most Useful Book’ to *Scriptura Non Grata*: Canon, Ecclesiastical  
| Constrictiveness, and the Loss of the *Shepherd* in Early Christianity”  
| Topics: Formation of the Canon, Reception of the *Shepherd* of Hermas, Second- to  
| Fourth-Century Christianity, Heresiology, Egyptian Church Politics  
| Availability: Revision published by Lexington Books (2023); see also [DU Commons](#).  
| Readers: Gregory A. Robbins (Doktorvater), Pamela Eisenbaum, & Victor Castellani
- January – | M.T.S. Candidate, Anderson University School of Theology, Thesis Research  
April 2013 | Thesis: “Teaching Heresy: Lessons From a Critical, Reconstructive Investigation  
| Into the Beliefs, Practices and Patristic Refutations of the Ebionites”  
| Topics: Jewish Christianity, Heresiology, Critical Pedagogy of Orthodoxy and Heresy  
| Availability: Officially unpublished, but accessible via [Academia.edu](#).

## GRANTS/AWARDS

- Summer 2012 | Archaeological Fellow of the Jeeninga Museum of Bible and Near Eastern Studies  
| Participant, Tel Hazor Excavations (Israel) with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

## RESEARCH LANGUAGES

Koinē Greek, Biblical Hebrew, Ecclesiastical Latin, French, German, and Coptic (*in progress*)

# ROBERT D. HEATON

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## Recent Résumé

**Active Minds**, Denver, Colorado

Instructor (May–August 2021)

- Taught a broad range of historical and current-affairs curricula primarily to senior citizens in managed care communities, both via Zoom and in person.

**Proof-Reading-Service.com**, Hertfordshire, United Kingdom

Freelance Proofreader (January–July 2021)

- Read and assessed scholarly work by authors for whom English was not a native language, offering feedback and ensuring conformity to style guides.

**University of Denver Libraries Reference Department**, Denver, Colorado

Evening and Weekend Reference Librarian (October 2019–June 2020)

Research Center Desk/Library Reference Assistant II (Sept. 2014–Sept. 2019)

- Helped students, faculty members, and other library patrons navigate library databases and catalogs to find quality information relevant to their research topics, including during hour-long one-on-one research consultations.
- Showed numerous novice students how to best navigate the library's homepage and resources to conduct their own independent research.
- Staffed a primary library service point, handling patron access, research, and troubleshooting questions by phone, webchat, and email.

**University of Denver Religious Studies/Iliff School of Theology**, Denver, CO

**Anderson University Department of Religious Studies**, Anderson, Indiana

Graduate Teaching Assistant (August 2011–May 2013; August 2015–June 2018)

- Presented regular lectures in undergraduate and graduate courses on topics ranging from the Historical Jesus and books of the Hebrew Bible to Wisdom Literature, individual gospels, and the Deutero-Pauline letters.
- Served as liaison to students needing additional clarification or explanation on class content, and graded student essays, exams, and written work.

**University of Denver Learning Effectiveness Program**, Denver, Colorado

**Kissinger Learning Center at Anderson University**, Anderson, Indiana

Tutor for Writing, Research, Religion, and Languages (2011–2013; 2018–2019)

- Critiqued student papers for grammatical, logical and argumentative proficiency, conformity to professor expectations, and competence with Turabian, Chicago, or MLA style.
- Tutored traditional and online students, offering constructive advice along every step of the writing process—from initial research to the final draft.

**Flint Hills Housing Assistance**, Manhattan, Kansas

Housing Specialist (July 2013–July 2014)

- Administered Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher and deposit assistance programs in a 17-county region of North Central Kansas.
- Inspected housing units for compliance with Housing Quality Standards.

**v-Fluence Interactive Public Relations, Inc.**, Saint Louis, Missouri

Account Associate (August 2007–April 2009)

- Monitored online environments for pharmaceutical and consumer goods clients, identifying risks and opportunities posed by key online influentials in visible blogs, social networks and emerging media.

## Prior Work History

## Skills & Interests

Proficient with Macs and PCs, HTML, Microsoft Office, Adobe Creative Cloud, and other professional programs (database, spreadsheet, desktop publishing).

Enjoys volunteering, technology, reading, music, sports, cycling, and camping.