

ROBERT D. HEATON

Ph.D. in Religious & Theological Studies
Specialties in New Testament, Christian Origins & Early Christianity
Email: dr.robheaton@gmail.com | Website: robheaton.com

Curriculum Vitae

PERSONAL ANIMUS

Affirming that religious traditions deserve deep and critical commitment, I seek to dedicate my life's work to postsecondary education to bridge students' knowledge gaps about biblical texts and religious studies, 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)

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. Tom Boomershine, *First-Century Gospel Storytellers and Audiences* (Cascade, 2022)
8. Matthew Thiessen, *A Jewish Paul: The Messiah's Herald to the Gentiles* (Baker Academic, 2023)
9. Clare K. Rothschild, *The Muratorian Fragment* (Mohr Siebeck, 2022)

Plus forthcoming episodes with Jeremiah Coogan, Joshua Paul Smith, Hank Willenbrink, and more.

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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Fall 2022 – Present | **Adjunct Professor** of New Testament and Christian Origins, Anderson University
NEWT 5100: Introduction to the New Testament [Online], M.Div./M.T.S. Students
NEWT 5150: The Early Church and the Roman Empire [Online], Grad Students
NEWT 7650: The Gospel According to John [Directed Study/Guided Research]
NEWT/OLDT 5310: Archaeology, the A.N.E., & Early Christianity [Directed Studies]
- Fall 2020 & Fall 2021 | **Adjunct Professor** of Religious Studies, 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 Extracanoncity 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/or Ecclesiastical Latin
- *The Shepherd* of Hermas, Apostolic Fathers, & Other Non-Canonical Christian Texts
- Heresiology/Heresy and Orthodoxy
- Patristic Interpretation of Scripture
- Modern World Christianities
- Second Temple & Early Rabbinic Judaism

ADDITIONAL COMPETENCIES

- Hebrew Bible
- World Religions (Survey or Advanced)
- The Abrahamic Faiths
- Religion, Politics, and Ethics
- Theism and Atheism
- Christianity, the Bible and Pop Culture
- Introduction to Philosophy
- 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*)

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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, genealogy, reading, music, sports, cycling, and camping.