

## Curriculum Vitae

**William “Chip” Gruen, III, Ph.D.**  
**Professor, Department of**  
**Religion Studies**

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### Education

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA: **Ph.D. in Religious Studies**, May 2005  
Dissertation entitled: “The Compilation and Dissemination of *The Life of Antony*” Robert Kraft, chair. E. Ann Matter and Brent Shaw, readers.

University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH: **Master of Arts in Ancient History**, 1999.

University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY: **Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Classical Studies**, 1996.

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel: Intensive Biblical Hebrew, 1995.

### Teaching Experience

2006-Present Professor of Religion Studies, Muhlenberg College

2005-2006 Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, University of Pennsylvania:

2002-2005 Instructor of Religious Studies, University of Pennsylvania:

Fall 2002 Visiting Instructor, Haverford College

2000-2002 Teaching Assistant, University of Pennsylvania

1998-1999 Teaching Assistant, University of Cincinnati

### Publication of Peer Reviewed Articles

“The Reception History of Jesus in the Pre-Constantinian Christian Catacombs of Rome” in *The Reception of Jesus in the First Three Centuries*, Bloomsbury - T & T Clark (2017), forthcoming.

“Contested Spaces and Contested Meanings in the Acts of Thomas” in *Religion and Theology* Vol.20.3-4 (2014).

"The Liminal Donkey: A Reappraisal of the Palatine Crucifix" in *Early Christianity* Vol. 2.4 (2011).

"Constructing Monastic Identities: Ethnicity in the Lives of the Anchoritic Monks, in *Annali di storia dell'esegesi* Vol. 27.2 (2010), 93-108.

"Seeking a Context for the *Testament of Job*," in *Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha*, Vol. 18.3 (2009), 163-179.

### **Other Publications**

["The Case for Religious Studies,"](#) *Insider Higher Ed*, (August 22, 2016).

Review of Randolph Richards, *Paul and First-Century Letter Writing: Secretaries, Composition and Collection*, *Revue of Biblical Literature* (02, 2007).

### **Presentation of Research**

November 2016, Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature, "Comparative Textual Criticism and the Problem of Internal Evidence"

March 2015, Regional Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature, "Can we evaluate the early 2nd century state of the Pauline Corpus?"

November, 2012, Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature, "Contested Spaces and Contested Meanings in the Acts of Thomas"

November, 2011, Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature, "Mummies, Martyrs, and the Creation of Christian Identity"

November, 2010, Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature, "Proselytization, Serpents, and Poison in Ancient Christianity: A Reappraisal of the Longer Ending of Mark"

November, 2009, Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, "Domesticity/Liminality/Wildness: Christological Animal Symbolism and the Meanings of Sacrifice"

November, 2009, Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature, "Domesticating Animal Symbolism: The Place of Donkeys in the Acts of Thomas"

November, 2008, Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature, "Constructing Monastic Identities: Ethnicity in the Lives of the Anchoritic Monks"

May, 2008, International Congress on Medieval Studies, "'By Race an Egyptian': Ethnic Categories in the *Life of Antony*"

November, 2007, Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature, "Ancient Symbols, Ancient Meanings: A Reappraisal of the Palatine Crucifix"

January, 2005 University of Pennsylvania Religious Studies Colloquium, "The Life of the *Life of Antony*"

November, 2003 Annual Meeting, Society for Biblical Literature, “Seeking a Context for the Testament of Job: Religious and Ethnic Violence in Egypt”

November, 2003 Annual Meeting, Society for Biblical Literature, “Religious and Group Identity in Late Antique Egypt”

March, 2003 Mid-Atlantic Region, Society for Biblical Literature, “Diaspora Jewish Violence in the Roman Southeast Mediterranean”

March, 2002 Mid-Atlantic Region, Society for Biblical Literature, “Rethinking Jewish-Gnosticism”

March, 2001 University of Pennsylvania Religious Studies Colloquium, “The Ritual Kiss in Early Christianity”

### **Research Interests**

My current research project examines how marginal religious groups are (mis)remembered and (mis)interpreted in source texts from antiquity. I am particularly concerned with the preservation and destruction of textual traditions and material culture and how the incomplete record colors our view of the past. By using both comparative and interdisciplinary methods I am attempting to re-read ancient source materials with an eye towards tracing the trajectories of Christological and soteriological representations that fell out of favor in the late antique period.

I have been invited by its editors to contribute to a 3-volume reference work for Bloomsbury T&T Clark entitled *The Reception of Jesus in the First Three Centuries*. This work will be a comprehensive reception-history of the Jesus tradition within the first 300 years of Christianity. My contribution will be a substantial treatment (15,000 words) of the Christian Catacombs of Rome.

### **Courses Taught**

#### *Muhlenberg College*

- Religion and Popular Culture
- Animals and the Sacred
- Theory and Method in the Study of Religion
- Christian Traditions
- New Testament
- Christianity at the Crossroads: The Emerging Church in Late Antiquity
- Scrolls, Scribes, and Scriptures
- Readings in New Testament Greek (Levels I & II)
- Advanced Seminar: Sacrifice
- Advanced Seminar: Cosmogonic Myth
- FYS: Exploring Meaning

#### *University of Pennsylvania*

- New Religious Movements
- Christian Origins
- Comparative Studies in Religious Violence

The Life and Letters of Paul  
Religions of the West  
Ethnic and Religious Identity in Antiquity  
Jesus in Film

*Haverford College*

Introduction to Christianity: Apocalypse and Tradition

### **Memberships**

Society of Biblical Literature  
American Academy of Religion  
American Research Center in Egypt  
North American Patristics Society

### **Notable Awards**

Crossette Family Faculty Fellowship for International Research, Summer 2016  
Office of Disability Services, Bridge-Builder Award (2010, 2013, 2015)  
Summer Research Grant, Muhlenberg College (2009, 2011, 2013)  
Chimicles Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania  
Schaff Prize for Research in the Jewish Tradition  
William Penn Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania  
Taft Fellowship at the University of Cincinnati  
Traveling Scholars Fellowship for Overseas Study from the University of Kentucky  
University of Kentucky Honors Program Grant for Intensive Language Study

### **Selected Service to Muhlenberg College**

Chair, Department of Religious Studies (Present)  
Member, Presidential Search Committee, (2014-2015)  
Writing Program Committee, Muhlenberg College (2007-2014; Fall 2009 – Spring 2012, Chair)  
Fulbright Committee, Prestigious Awards Initiative, Muhlenberg College (2009-2012)  
Humanities representative of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Muhlenberg College (2007-Present)  
Library Liaison, Religion Studies, for Trexler Library, Muhlenberg College (2006-2012)