

Curriculum Vitae

James F. McGrath
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Qualifications and Studies:

Doctor of Philosophy: University of Durham (awarded July 1998). Title: “John's Apologetic Christology: Legitimation and Development in Johannine Christology.” Supervisor: Prof. James D. G. Dunn.

Bachelor of Divinity: University of London (awarded July 1995). 2:1 honors and second prize.

Diploma in Religious studies: University of Cambridge (awarded August 1993). With distinction.

Work Experience:

Present Employment:

Appointed Clarence L. Goodwin Chair of New Testament Language and Literature, February 2010.

Tenured Associate Professor of Religion, Butler University, February 2008-present
Assistant Professor of Religion, Butler University, Indianapolis, August 2002-Summer 2008

Classes taught: The Bible; The Historical Jesus; The Gospel of John; The Book of Revelation; Paul and the Early Church; Heresy in Early Christianity; Religion and Science; Religion and Science Fiction; Religious Faith and Scientific Vocations Seminar; Change and Tradition: China and the Islamic Middle East, South Asian Civilizations

Previous Employment:

Part-time consultant, World Bible Translation Center, Fort Worth, Texas, 2000-2005
Adjunct Professor, Alliance Theological Seminary, New York, September 2001-May 2002

Classes taught: Biblical Interpretation, New Testament Background; New Testament Theology; Gospel of Matthew

Adjunct Professor, Biblical Theological Seminary, Hatfield, PA, September 2001-May 2002

Classes taught: Introductory New Testament Greek (2 semesters); Cross-Cultural Missions; Johannine Literature and General Epistles

Assistant Professor of New Testament, Emanuel University, Romania, September 1999 – May 2001.

Assistant Professor of New Testament, University of Oradea, Romania, September 1999 – May 2001.

Courses taught: Intertestamental Period, New Testament Study (1) - Galatians, Elements of Biblical Linguistics, Exegesis in Greek (2 semesters): Romans 1-8, New Testament Study (2) - Matthew, New Testament Theology (Semester 2); Summer program: Culture, Communication and the Christian Mission

Other duties: Supervision of final-year dissertations, coordination of timetable for full-time and part-time (distance learning) programs, curriculum development, coordination of Staff Theological Research Seminar.

Assistant Professor of New Testament, Emanuel Bible Institute of Oradea, Romania, 1998-1999 academic year.

Courses taught: Intertestamental Period, New Testament Exegesis (1) - Galatians and Ephesians, New Testament Exegesis (2) - Matthew, Exegesis in Greek (2): Hebrews, New Testament Theology (Semester 2), Elements of Biblical Linguistics; Summer program: Biblical Interpretation, New Testament Themes, Culture, Communication and the Christian Mission

Other duties: Supervision of final-year dissertations, planning of curriculum and development of distance learning program.

Academic Publications

Books authored:

The Only True God: Monotheism in Early Judaism and Christianity (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2009)

John's Apologetic Christology (SNTS Monograph Series, 111), Cambridge University Press, 2001.

Books edited:

Religion and Science Fiction (forthcoming from Pickwick Press)

Articles and Chapters contributed:

“Burial of Jesus. II. Christianity. B. Modern Europe and America” forthcoming in *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, ed. Hans-Josef Klauck et.al., Berlin: de Gruyter.

“Reading the Story of Miriai on Two Levels: Evidence from Mandaeen Anti-Jewish Polemic about the Origins and Setting of Early Mandaeism” forthcoming in *ARAM Periodical* 22 (2010) 583-592.

“On Hearing (Rather Than Reading) Intertextual Echoes: Christology and Monotheistic Scriptures in an Oral Context” forthcoming in *Biblical Theology Bulletin*.

“Biblioblogging Our Matrix: Exploring the Potential and Perplexities of Academic Blogging” *Bulletin for the Study of Religion* 39:3 (September 2010) 7-12.

“Robots, Rights and Religion”, forthcoming in *Religion and Science Fiction*, ed. James F. McGrath (see above).

“Written Islands in an Oral Stream” in *Jesus and Paul: Global Perspectives in Honor of James D. G. Dunn for His 70th Birthday*, edited by B. J. Oropeza, Douglas C. Mohrmann, and C. K. Robertson (Library of New Testament Studies, 414; T&T Clark, 2009) pp.3-12.

““Destroy This Temple”: Issues of History in John 2”, in *John, Jesus, and History, Volume 2: Aspects of Historicity in the Fourth Gospel* edited by Paul N. Anderson, Felix Just, and Tom Thatcher (Society of Biblical Literature Symposium Series, 44; Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature Press, 2009) pp.35-43.

“Artificial Minds and Human Religions: An illustration of the diversity of possible intersections between religious thought and practice and technological advances,” *Transdisciplinary Approaches of the Dialogue between Science, Art and Religion in the Europe of Tomorrow. 9-11 September 2007* edited by Basarab Nicolescu and Magda Stavinschi (Sibiu: Curtea Veche, 2008; ISBN: 978-973-669-596-4).

- “History and Fiction in the Acts of Thomas: The State of the Question”, *Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha* 17 (2008) 297-311
- “Jesus as False Prophet” in *Who Do My Opponents Say That I Am? Investigating the Accusations Against Jesus* (Library of Historical Jesus Studies), Scot McKnight and Joseph Modica (editors), T&T Clark, 2008, pp.95-110.
- “Was Jesus Illegitimate? The Evidence of His Social Interactions” *Journal for the Study of the Historical Jesus* 5.1 (January 2007) 85-105.
- “Temelia escatologică a soteriologiei pauline” in '*Care Imparte Drept Cuvântul Adevarului*'. *Volum Omagial Ioan Bunaciu*, ed. Otniel Bunaciu, Radu Gheorghiuță and Emil Bartoș (Oradea: Editura Reformatio, 2005 ISBN 973-86076-5-5) pp.75-84.
- “Neo: Messianic Superhero of *The Matrix*”, *The Gospel According to Superheroes*, ed. B. J. Oropeza, Peter Lang, 2005, pp.255-268.
- ““Two Powers” and Early Jewish and Christian Monotheism” (with Jerry Truex), *Journal of Biblical Studies* 4:1 (January 2004). ISSN: 1534-3057
- “Conflicting Visions of the Real: Christianity, Buddhism & Baudrillard in The Matrix films and popular culture”, forthcoming in *Visions of Humanity in Cyberculture, Cyberspace, and Science-Fiction*, ed. Marcus Leaning and Birgit Pretzsch, Rodopi, 2004.
- “The Desert of the Real: Christianity, Buddhism & Baudrillard in The Matrix films and popular culture”, forthcoming in *Visions of the Human in Science Fiction and Cyberpunk*, ed. Marcus Leaning and Birgit Pretzsch, Inter-Disciplinary Press, 2004. ISBN 1-904710-16-6
- ““A Glutton and a Drunkard”? What Would Jesus Drink?”, *Religion and Alcohol: Sobering Thoughts*, ed. C. K. Robertson, Peter Lang, 2004.
- “Religion, But Not as We Know It: Spirituality and Sci-Fi,” in *Religion as Entertainment*, ed. C. K. Robertson, Peter Lang: 2002, pp.153-172.
- “Christology on Two Fronts: A New Testament Model for 'Doing' Christology in a Pluralistic Context,” *Religion and Theology* 6/1 (1999): 65-82.
- “A Rebellious Son? Hugo Odeberg and the Interpretation of John 5.18,” *New Testament Studies* 44 (1998): 470-473.
- “Change in Christology: New Testament Models and the Contemporary Task,” *Irish Theological Quarterly* 63/1 (1998): 39-50.
- “Going Up and Coming Down in Johannine Legitimation,” *Neotestamentica* 31/1 (1997): 107-118
- “Prologue as Legitimation: Christological Controversy and the Interpretation of John 1:1-18,” *Irish Biblical Studies* 19 (June 1997): 98-120.
- “Uncontrived Messiah or Passover Plot? A Study of A Johannine Apologetic Motif,” *Irish Biblical Studies* 19 (January 1997): 2-16.
- “Johannine Christianity - Jewish Christianity?” *Koinonia* VIII.1 (1996): 1-20.

Bibliographical:

With Jerry Truex, “Early Jewish and Christian Monotheism: A Select Bibliography”, in *Early Jewish and Christian Monotheism*, ed. Loren T. Stuckenbruck and Wendy E. S. North (JSNTSup 263); London/New York: T&T Clark (Continuum), 2004, pp.235-242.

Reviews:

- Review of John Walton, *The Lost World of Genesis One* in *Reports of the National Center for Science Education* Vol. 30 No.1-2 (Jan-Apr 2010): 52-53.
- Review of Bogdan Burtea, *Angelomorphic Pneumatology: Clement of Alexandria and Other Early Christian Witnesses* in *Review of Biblical Literature* (May 2010) [http://www.bookreviews.org/pdf/7286_7930.pdf].

- Review of Gerald O'Collins, *Christology: A Biblical, Historical, and Systematic Study of Jesus* (Oxford University Press, 2009) in *Review of Biblical Literature* (April 2010) [http://www.bookreviews.org/pdf/7264_7905.pdf].
- Review of Kenneth Bailey, *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes* in *Sharing the Practice* 31:3 (Autumn 2008): 19-20.
- Review of Jack Clayton Swearingen, *Beyond Paradise: Technology and the Kingdom of God* in *Teaching Theology and Religion* 11:4 (2008): 236.
- Review of Birger Pearson, *Ancient Gnosticism: Traditions and Literature* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2007) in *Review of Biblical Literature* (June 2008). [http://www.bookreviews.org/pdf/6053_6718.pdf]
- Review of Larry W. Hurtado, *The Early Christian Artifacts: Manuscripts and Christian Origins*, in *Review of Biblical Literature* (September 2007). [http://www.bookreviews.org/pdf/5643_6203.pdf]
- Review of N. Clayton Croy, *The Mutilation of Mark's Gospel, Teaching Theology & Religion* 9:1 (2006): 65-66.
- Review of James C. VanderKam, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Today*, in *Folia Orientalia* 33 (1997): 235-237.
- Review of Lawrence H. Schiffman, *Reclaiming the Dead Sea Scrolls. The History of Judaism, the Background of Christianity, the Lost Library of Qumran*, in *Qumran Chronicle* Vol.6 No.1/4 (December 1996): 167-170.
- Review of Barbara Thiering, *Jesus of the Apocalypse. The Life of Jesus after the Crucifixion*, in *Qumran Chronicle* Vol.6 No.1/4 (December 1996): 170-172.
- Various other reviews at <http://exploringourmatrix.blogspot.com>

Translations (Romanian – English):

- Bartos, Emil, "The Dynamics of Deification in the Theology of Dumitru Staniloae", in Lucian Turcescu (ed.), *Dumitru Staniloae: Tradition and Modernity in Theology*, Iasi/Oxford/Palm Beach: The Center for Romanian Studies, 2002, pp.207-248.

Academic Papers (Lectures, Seminars and Conferences):

- "The Blogging Revolution: New Technologies and their Impact on How we do Scholarship" invited paper delivered in the Blogger and Online Publication session at the Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting in Atlanta, November 22nd, 2010.
[Text online at <http://exploringourmatrix.blogspot.com/2010/11/blogging-revolution-new-technologies.html>; podcast available online at <http://targuman.org/blog/2010/11/28/podcast-james-mcgrath-sbl-2010-blogger-online-publication/>]
- "Intertextuality without an Intertext? Musings on Matthew and Method" in the Intertextuality in the New Testament consultation at the Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting in Atlanta, November 22nd, 2010.
- "On Hearing (Rather Than Reading) Intertextual Echoes: Methodological Considerations Related to Aurality, Orality, and Intertextuality" read at the Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting in New Orleans, November 22nd, 2009.
- "Reading the Story of Miriai on Two Levels: Evidence from Mandaean Anti-Jewish Polemic about the Origins and Setting of Early Mandaeism" read at the ARAM Society conference on the Mandaeans, Oriental Institute, Oxford, UK July 2009.
- "Written Islands in an Oral Stream" presented at the Gospels section of the Midwest Society of Biblical Literature Meeting in Bourbonnais, Illinois, February 14th, 2009.

- “Mark’s Missing Ending: Clues from the Gospel of John and the Gospel of Peter”, read in the Synoptic Gospels section at the SBL National Meeting in Boston, November 2008.
- “Mandaean Polemic against Jews and Christians as Evidence about the Origins and Setting of Early Mandaeism”, read in the Jewish Christianity/Christian Judaism section at the SBL National Meeting in Boston, November 2008.
- “Mark’s Missing Ending: Clues from the Gospel of John and the Gospel of Peter”, paper read at the Midwest Society of Biblical Literature Meeting in Bourbonnais, Illinois, February 15-17, 2008.
- Chaired panel discussion (by invitation) on Ritva Williams' book *Stewards, Prophets, Keepers of the Word* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 2006) at the Midwest Society of Biblical Literature Meeting in Bourbonnais, IL, February 15-17, 2008.
- “Artificial Minds and Human Religions: An illustration of the diversity of possible intersections between religious thought and practice and technological advances”, paper read at Transdisciplinary Approaches of the Dialogue between Science, Art and Religion in the Europe of Tomorrow, Sibiu, Romania, September 2007.
- “Jesus as ‘Prophet’ and ‘False Prophet’”, paper read at the Midwest Society of Biblical Literature Meeting in Bourbonnais, Illinois, February 16-18, 2007.
- “History and Fiction in the Acts of Thomas: The State of the Question”, paper read at the Eastern Great Lakes Biblical Society conference in Erie, PA, on March 24th, 2006.
- ““Destroy This Temple”: Issues of History in John 2”, paper presented to the John, Jesus and History section of the 2005 SBL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- “Was Jesus Illegitimate? The Evidence of His Social Interactions”, paper presented to the Historical Jesus section of the 2005 SBL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- “Worship and Monotheism in the Book of Revelation”, SBL Midwest Regional Meeting, Deerfield, IL, February 19th, 2005.
- “Worship and the Question of Jewish Polytheism in the Hellenistic Age”, paper presented to the Hellenistic Judaism section of the 2003 SBL Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.
- “Rebuilding the Temple: Jesus’ Timetable for the Dawn of a New Age?”, paper presented to the Historical Jesus section of the 2003 SBL Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.
- “Scientific Cosmology and Christianity: Models for their Interaction”, paper read on Thursday, March 27th, 2003 at the “Scientific Cosmology and Christianity” Science Symposium at Wheaton College.
- “The Desert of the Real: Christianity, Buddhism and Baudrillard in The Matrix and Popular Culture”, paper read at the conference *Visions of Humanity in Cyberculture, Cyberspace and Science Fiction* (Monday 11th August - Wednesday 13th August 2003, Prague, Czech Republic). [<http://www.interdisciplinary.net/ati/Visions/V1/mcgrath%20paper.pdf>]
- ““Two Powers’ and Early Jewish and Christian Monotheism”, paper read on Saturday, November 17th, 2001 to the Early Jewish and Christian Mysticism Group at the SBL Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado.
- “John: Defender and Developer of the Faith. A Distinctive Gospel and its Distinctive Context”, academic paper read at American Baptist Seminary of the West, Berkeley, CA, on October 30th, 2001.
- “John, Jesus and ‘the Jews’. A distinctive Gospel in its distinctive context”, lecture given on March 16th, 2001 at Heythrop College, University of London.
- “Extraterestrii si Evangelicii în Dialog. Implicatiile teologice ale existentei vietii inteligente extraterestre” [“Evangelicals and Extraterrestrials in Dialogue. Theological Implications of the Existence of Intelligent Extraterrestrial Life”],

- paper read at the theological seminar of the Areopagus Center, Timisoara, Romania, November 1st, 2000.
- “Reformati si întotdeauna reformându-se. O regândire a sensului învătaturii pauline si a semnificatiei sale pentru contextul evanghelic românesc” [“Reformed and Ever Being Reformed'. The New Perspective on Paul and its Implications for Romanian Evangelicalism”], public lecture given at the Areopagus Center, Timsoara, Romania, November 1st, 2000.
- “Temelia Escatologica a Soteriologiei Pauline” [“The Eschatological Foundation of Pauline Soteriology”], paper presented March 1st, 2000 at the 7th annual Academic Conference, Emanuel University, March 31st – April 1st, 2000.
- “Is John's Christology Monotheist?”, paper presented at the Staff Theological Research Seminar, Emanuel Bible Institute, November 20th, 1998.
- “Are Christians Monotheists? The Answer of St. John's Gospel” Lecture given at the North of England Institute for Christian Education Sixth Form Study Day, University of Durham, March 27th, 1998.
- “John's Apologetic Use of Ps. 82:6 and the Development of Johannine Christology,” read at the Durham Postgraduate New Testament Seminar, February 16th, 1998.
- “Christology on Two Fronts: A New Testament Model for 'Doing' Christology in a Pluralistic Context,” read on November 20th, 1997 at the conference *The Myriad Christ: Plurality and the Quest for Unity in Contemporary Christology*, Catholic University of Leuven, November 18th-21st, 1997.
- “Change in Christology: New Testament Models and the Contemporary Task,” read at the Durham Postgraduate New Testament Seminar, May 13th, 1996.
- “Going Up and Coming Down in Johannine Apologetic,” presented to the Johannine Literature Seminar on September 14th, 1996, at the *British New Testament Conference*, University of Aberdeen, September 12th-14th, 1996.
- “An Introduction to Wayne A. Meeks' ‘A Hermeneutic of Social Embodiment,’” read at the Durham Postgraduate Contemporary Theology Seminar, February 22nd, 1996.

Other publications

Books

The Burial of Jesus: History and Faith (BookSurge, 2008)

Articles and Letters

- “God, the Devil, and TV's ‘Lost’” *USA Today* May 17th, 2010
http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2010-05-17-column17_ST1_N.htm
- “Translating the Bible is no joke. But what's in a political 'translation'?” *Christian Science Monitor* December 7th, 2009
<http://www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/Opinion/2009/1207/p09s04-coop.html>
- “Entuziasmul fără cunoștințe este o problemă serioasă pentru religie”, interview published in Cătălin Mosoia, *În dialog cu...despre știință și religie* (Bucharest: Curtea Veche, 2007) 129-139.
- “Same rules”, Letter to the Editor, *NUVO* 10/10/2007
http://www.nuvo.net/articles/same_rules/ >
- “Professor Questions Evolution Coverage”, *The Butler Collegian* Vol.120 Issue 23 (Wednesday, April 11th, 2007)
- “Description of Islam Painted Just One Side”, Letter to the Editor, *Indianapolis Star*, 7/4/04 <<http://www.indystar.com/articles/5/159797-6815-022.html>>
- “Authentic Power and Gentleness: A Meeting With Peteris Vasks”, <<http://www.lmic.lv/>>

“Bible cannot determine homosexual marriage laws”, *The Butler Collegian* Vol.118
 Issue 14 (Wednesday, January 21st, 2004)
<http://dawgnet.butler.edu/archive/040116/pictures/040116.pdf>
 Exploring Our Matrix blog <http://exploringourmatrix.blogspot.com> (previously at
<http://blue.butler.edu/~jfmccgrat/blog/>)
 The Hyper-Active Bible (an interactive Bible textbook)
<http://blue.butler.edu/~jfmccgrat/Interactive/Bible/>
 For online lecture notes see <http://blue.butler.edu/~jfmccgrat/>

Current Areas of Interest and Research:

The Mandaean and their literature, with particular focus on the Book of John
 Jewish and Christian monotheism from the first century through the early Rabbinic
 period
 Early Jewish-Christian relations and the mutual interaction and development of early
 Jewish and Christian traditions
 The historical figure of Jesus
 Cultural and anthropological insights into the New Testament and its world (especially
 oral tradition and counter-cultural images of God in the Jesus tradition)
 Christian literature in Syriac
 Sociological perspectives on the development of early Christian beliefs and practices
 The ‘New Perspective on Paul’
 Hermeneutics and the use of the Bible in theology, practice and ethics
 Religions and religious themes in science fiction literature and film.
 The interface and creative interaction of science and religion.

Professional Societies:

Member	Society of Biblical Literature	1998 – present
Member	Metanexus Institute	2003 – present
Member	National Center for Science Education	2007 – present
Member	American Academy of Religion	2010 –
Member	American Oriental Society	2010 –