

ABJAR BAHKOU. CURRICULUM VITAE



ABJAR BAHKOU

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. *Pontifical Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies*, Arabic and Islamic Studies, Rome, Italy (2011).

Ph.D. *Salesian Pontifical University*, Education, Focuses on Youth Ministry and Catechesis Rome, Italy (1998).

M.A. *Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary*, Islamic Studies, Fort Worth, Texas (2006).

M.A. *Salesian Pontifical University*, Education, Focusing on Youth Education (1994)

B.A. *Salesian Pontifical University*, Education, Rome, Italy (1995).

Diploma in Theology, *St. Ephraim Theological Seminary*, Damascus, Syria (1993).

AWARDS

Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, Missouri, Doctor of Letters honoris causa (May 16, 2013)

ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK COMPLETED

- *Baylor University*, Academy for Teaching and Learning, Summer Faculty Institute (June 2012)
- *University of Texas Austin*, Arabic Teachers of Texas Professional Development Workshop, Arabic Flagship Program, Dept. of Middle Eastern Studies (2012)
- *University of Texas Austin*, Arabic Teachers Professional Development Workshop, Arabic Flagship Program, Dept. of Middle Eastern Studies (2009).
- *Texas Christian University*, Brite Divinity School, Ft. Worth, Texas (2004).
- *Loyola Marymount University*, Department of Theological Studies (2002).
- *Fuller Theological Seminary*, Pasadena, California (2001).
- *Kimmage Manor*, School of Theology, Intercultural Studies, Dublin, Ireland (1998).

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Office of International and National Mission, Lutheran Church Missouri-Synod, Muslim Ministries Facilitator (July 2023- Present)

Concordia Seminary Saint Louis, Associate Professor of Practical Theology (2018-present)

Concordia Seminary Saint Louis, Adjunct Professor of Muslim-Christian Dialogue (2014).

Baylor University, Resident Research Fellow and Manuscript Research Scholar, Institute for Studies of Religion, Program on Global Studies of Religion (2009-2018) 2018-present as Non-Resident.

Baylor University, Regular Lecturer of Arabic Literature, Culture, and Language (2009-2015).

Baylor University, Senior Lecturer of Arabic Literature, Culture, and Language (2015-2018).

University of North Texas, Adjunct Professor of Arabic Literature, Culture, and Language (2009).

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas (2006–2008).

Instructor in Islamic Studies.

Courses taught: Intermediate Arabic. Islamic History, Culture, Philosophy; Christian Inquiry into Islamic Faith and Practice; History of Christianity in Pre-Islamic Period.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas (2006–2007).

Teaching Assistantship 2006 – 2007.

Courses assisted: Christian Inquiry into Islamic Faith; Islamic History, Culture, Philosophy. The Qur'an: Islamic Sources. The Hadith: Islamic Sources. History of Christianity in Pre-Islamic Period, Eastern & Western Christianity. Arabs in Biblical History. Church History.

Salesian Pontifical University, Rome, Italy (1996 – 1998).

Teaching Assistantship.

Courses assisted: Philosophy of Religion, Sociology of Religion, Anthropology, and Seminar in Youth Education.

St. Ephraim Theological Seminary, Damascus, Syria (1998 – 1999).

Instructor in World Religion and Interreligious Dialogue.

Course taught: Christian Muslim Dialogue. Introduction to World Religions. Christian Youth Education in the Contemporary Arabic Context.

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LANGUAGES

- Arabic Fluent reading, writing, and speaking
- Syriac (Classical Aramaic) Fluent reading, writing, and speaking
- English Fluent reading, writing, and speaking
- Italian Fluent reading, writing, and speaking
- French Strong reading knowledge
- Hebrew (Biblical) Strong reading knowledge

ORGANIZATIONS

Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa
American Academy of Religion
Evangelical Theological Society
North American Patristic Society
Gruppo di Ricerca Arabo-Cristiana, Italy, Lebanon, (Arabic-Christian Group of Researchers)
North American Society for Christian Arabic Studies

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

- *The Power of God on the Cross*, Essayist at the National Convention of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Wisconsin, Milwaukee, July 2023.
- *Ammar al-Basri Dialogue with Islam and its Implications to The Contemporary Interfaith Encounters*, Paper Presented at the Thirteen International Symposium of Syriac Studies, and the Eleventh Congress of Arabic Christian Studies, Paris, France, July 2022.
- *Jesus in Islam*, Fall Lay Bible Institute, Concordia Seminary, October 5th, 2019.
- Keynotes Speaker at the Annual Multiethnic Symposium at Concordia Seminary Saint Louis April 24, 2018. *The Message of the Gospel in the Cultural Distinctive Shame and Honor*.
- *Paul Undermines Timothy's Sense of Shame* (The Annual Multiethnic Symposium at Concordia Seminary Saint Louis April 24, 2018).
- *Muslims Christian Encounters: Challenges and Perspectives* (Gambia College, Gambia, November 2018).
- *The Story of Jesus in the Quran* (Gambian Christian Council, Gambia, November 10, 2018)
- *The Quran and the Bible* (Gambia Pastoral Institute, Gambia November 14, 2018).
- *Muslim Christian Encounters*, Teaching 2 Credits Units of Continuing Education Program for Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Mission Staff in East Africa (Kenya, Nairobi January 2-5, 2017).
- *Sam Encounters Ishmael. The Encounter of Syriac Christianity with Islam in the 7th -9th century*. Presented at the ninth Annual Conferences of the Association for the Study of Middle East and Africa, Washington D.C. (October 28-29, 2016).

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- *Engaging Islam in the Apologetical Discourses of Gerasimus*. Paper Presented at the XII International Symposium of Syriac Studies, and the X Congress of Arabic Christian Studies, Pontificio Istituto Orientale, Rome Italy (August 19-24, 2016).
- *The Encounters of the Syriac Churches with Islam in the 7th -9th century, learning from the Past*. Paper presented at Symposium Organized by Baylor Institute of Study of Religion, titled, *The Syriac Christian Churches, Rediscovering the Church's Eastern Roots*, Waco TX (April 20th, 2016).
- *The Monk Encounters the Prophet, The Story of the Encounter between Monk Bahīra and Muhammad as it is Recorded in the Syriac Manuscript of Mardin 259/2*. Paper presented at the eighth Annual Conferences of the Association for the Study of Middle East and Africa, Washington D.C. (October 30-November 2, 2015).
- *The True Religion in the Apology of Gerasimus "The Complete Book of the Healing Meanings."* Paper Presented at the third International Symposium Syro-Arabicum, Organized by the Department of Syro-Antiochene of the Faculty of Religious and Oriental Sciences of the Holy Spirit University in Beirut, Lebanon, in Collaboration with the Center for Documentation and research on Arab Christianity of the Faculty of Religious Sciences at University of Saint Joseph (Beirut, Lebanon, February 3-7, 2015).
- *Discerning the True Religion in the Apologetical Discourses of Gerasimus*, Paper presented at the Seventh Annual Conferences of the Association for the Study of Middle East and Africa, *Searching for Balance in Middle East and Africa*, Washington D.C. (October 30-November 2, 2014).
- *Jesus in Islam*, Annual Lecture on World Religions, organized by the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology at Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, Missouri (March 26, 2014)
- *Using Fiction as a Vehicle for Popularizing History, Jujry Zaidan's Historical Novels*. Paper presented at the Sixth Annual Conferences of the Association for the Study of Middle East and Africa. *Tide of Changes: Looking back and forging ahead in the Middle East and Africa*, Washington D.C. (November 21-23, 2013).
- *Jurji Zaydan: Activist and Reformer during the Arab Renaissance*, A Paper Presented to Thirty Seventh International Conference of ARAM Society for Syro-Mesopotamian Studies: Christian Contribution to Arab Renaissance, Oxford University, England, (July 15-18, 2013)
- *Syriac Christianity: its Origins and Historical Development*, Symposium on World Religions, Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis (March 11-15, 2013).
- *Theological Principles for Muslim Christian Dialogue*, Symposium on World Religions, Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis (March 11-15, 2013).
- Commencement Speaker at *Concordia Seminary* (May 16, 2013)
- *Cristiani e Musulmani nel Mondo Arabo ieri ed oggi: Conflitti e Incontri Culturali e Religiosi* (Christians and Muslims in the Arab World, Yesterday and Today: Conflicts and religious encounters) Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome, Italy, February 27–28, 2009.

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- Baptist-Muslim National Dialogue, Sponsored by the Baptist and Islamic Organizations Andover Newton Theological School, Boston, Massachusetts, January 9–11, 2009.
- “Kitāb al-Kāfī Fī al-Ma‘nā al-Shāfī (The Complete Book of the healing Meaning) the Christian Apology of Gerasimus,” An International Colloquium on the Literary Production of Melkites in the Pre-Ottoman Era (AD 750-1561), Beirut, Lebanon, January 2008.
- “The Use of Analogies in Christian-Arabs and Muslims Debates in the Middle Ages,” Christian Arabic Panel at the Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, St. Louis, Missouri, March 12-15, 2010.

THESIS SUPERVISED

Marvel for Remnant: The History and Hope of the Church in the Middle East, By, Bethany Simons. In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Honors Program at Baylor University (April 2014).

Examining Committee of the Honors Program at Baylor University theses, titled, *Liturgical Exegesis: Genesis 1-11 as Sung in the Qur’an*, (April 2016).

Muslim Christians Encounters in the Levant in the First Abbasid Period, Learning from the Past. Student name: Barnett Carlton. In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Honors Program at Baylor University Honors Program at Baylor University (April 2017).

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Shining the Light of Gospel on The Quran: Understanding and Engaging Muslims
Concordia Publishing House, Saint Louis. November 9, 21

The Monk Encounters the Prophet, The Story of the Encounter between Monk Bahīra and Muhammad as it is Recorded in the Syriac Manuscript of Mardin 259/2 (Edwin Mellen Press, NY, 2017.)

Life with God (in Arabic) a Discipleship Program based on Luther Catechism, Detroit, 2017.

Defending Christian Faith, The fifth Part of the Christian Apology of Gerasimus, De Gruyter Open, Berlin, Germany 2014.

Kitāb al-Kāfī Fī al-Ma‘nā al-Shāfī (The Complete Book of the Healing Meaning) The Christian Apology of Gerasimus, Excerpt of the Doctorate Dissertation [Published the English translation of the text] Pontifical Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Rome 2012.

On the Road to Emmaus, Youth Devotional Journey through Christian Faith, iUniverse, Bloomington, IN 2010.

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Ipotesi di Education Religiosa Cristiana Nel Contesto Giovanile Arabo Siriano, (=A Proposal for the Religious Education of Young People in the Arabo-Syrian Context) Estratto dalla Dissertazione Dottorale, Università Pontificia Salesiana, Roma 1998.

Articles

“Ammar al-Basri Dialogue with Islam and its Implications to The Contemporary Interfaith Encounters” in *Parole de l’Orient* 49 (2023) 1-16

The Islamic Claim of Jesus and the Christian Response, *Concordia Journal*, Saint Louis (fall 2016, vol 42. Number 4): 322-331.

“The Signs of True Religion in the Apology of Gerasimus “The Complete Book of the Healing Meanings.” *Parole de l’Orient* 42 (2016): 1-26.

“The Monk Encounters the Prophet, The Story of the Encounter between Monk Bahīra and Muhammad as it is Recorded in the Syriac Manuscript of Mardin 259/2.” *Journal of Cultural and Religious Studies*, (David Publishing Company IL, Nov.-Dec. 2015, Vol. 3, No. 6, 349-357).

“Discerning the True Religion in the Apologetical Discourses of Gerasimus,” *Journal Of Oriental and African Studies*, (Athens, Greece, vol. 23, 2014: 49-70).

“Using Fiction as a Vehicle for Popularizing History: Jujry Zaidan’s Historical Novels,” *The Levantine Review: The Journal of Near Eastern and Mediterranean Studies at Boston College*. (Volume 4. Spring 2015: 67-85)

“Jurji Zaydan: Activist and Reformer during the Arab Renaissance,” (ARAM 25:1&2 (2013), 349-362) *ARAM: the Periodical of Aram Society for Syro-Mesopotamian Studies at the Oriental Institute in Oxford University, England*.

Co-authored with John Lamoraux, "Gerasimos, the Abbot of Monastery of St. Symeon," in: David Thomas and Alex Mallett (Eds.) *Christians Muslims Relations, a Biographical History, Vol. 5 (1350-1500)*. L.J. Brill. Leiden, Boston 2013, 661-666.

“Kitāb al-Kāfi Fī al-Ma‘nā al-Shāfi (The Complete Book of the Proper Meaning: A Christian Apology of Gerasimus,” in, Samir K. Samir (ed.) *The Literary Production of Melkites in the Pre-Ottoman Era (AD 750 – 1561)*, *Actes du Colloque Melkite*, 34 (*Parole de L’Orient*) 2009, 309-345.

Work in progress (Book)

- Explaining the Reason of Eternal Hope. The Christian Apologetical Discourses of Gerasimus.

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TRANSLATION WORK

From English into Arabic

- Nora Lozano, *Good News for Women*, Global Women, Birmingham, AL 2007. (2010)
- Laurence L. White, *Life with God*, Houston, Texas 1995. (2007)
- Sister Magdalene, *Children in the Church Today*, St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, Crestwood, New York 1991. (2002)
- *Good News Magazine* (Issue 42-43) Published by the Lutheran Mission Society (2020).

REFERENCES

Dr. Byron R. Johnson, Director
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