Ephrem Aboud ISHAC, PhD

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CURRENT POSITION

2023 – Senior Postdoc / FWF Principal Investigator, Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW), Vienna, Austria.

VISITING POSITIONS

- 2022 Visiting Lecturer on Liturgy, Master of Arts in Syriac Theology, University of Salzburg, Austria.
- 2019 Visiting Faculty / Instructor of Syriac language, Central European University, Vienna, Austria.
- 2019 Visiting Researcher, the Foundation for Religious Studies (FSCIRE), Bologna, Italy.
- 2014 Visiting Researcher, Vestigia Manuscript Research Center, Graz University, Austria.

FORMER POSITIONS

2022–2023	Research Scholar Fellow.	Yale Institute of Sacred Music	. Yale University, USA.

2022 –2023 Lecturer in Liturgical Studies, Yale Divinity School, Yale University, USA.

2014–2022 Researcher, Vestigia Manuscript Research Center, Graz University, Graz, Austria.

2017–2019 Senior Postdoctoral Fellow at the Foundation for Religious Studies (FSCIRE), Bologna, Italy.

2019 Part time researcher and lecturer at the Institute of Ecumenical Theology, Eastern Orthodoxy

and Patristics. Faculty of Catholic Theology, University of Graz, Graz, Austria.

2015–2018 Lecturer and researcher on Syriac Liturgy, Master of Arts in Syriac Theology, University of Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria.

EDUCATION

❖ PhD in Liturgy (*summa cum laude*), Institute of Liturgy. The Holy Spirit University (USEK). Kaslik, Lebanon 2013.

Dissertation title: نافور مار يعقوب الرهاوي: دراسة ليتورجيّة نقديّة، وتحليل لغويّ مقارن, [tr.: Mor Jacob of Edessa's Anaphora: A Critical Liturgical Study and a Comparative Linguistic Analysis].

❖ Master of Arts in General Theology, St Vladimir Orthodox Theological Seminary, NY, USA 2008. Thesis title: Jacob of Edessa's *Hexaemeron*: A Comparative Study with St Basil of Caesarea's *Hexaemeron*.

Digital Humanities and Computer Skills:

XML, TEI, Database Schema Design, Database Library System, Critical Text Editor (CTE), etc...

- Forthcoming database: Comprehensive Syriac Liturgical Corpus: https://syriac-liturgy.org
- Blog on Syriac Liturgy in a Digital Age: https://syriacliturgy.wordpress.com
- Consultant and Supervisor to Beth Mardutho summer schools on Syriac digital humanities.
- Area Editor to SIMTHO The Syriac Thesaurus Database: http://bethmardutho.org/simtho
- Major Editor to the digital Syriac Anaphoras Corpus: https://syriac-anaphoras.org
- Contributor of Syriac Studies for *The Digital Orientalist* e-Magazine: https://digitalorientalist.com
- Contributor to Beth Mardutho Syriac lexicographic SEDRA database: https://sedra.bethmardutho.org

SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS:

2023–2026	Austrian Research Fund Center (FWF), Vienna (PI Project: Identifying Syriac Liturgy MSS).
2022–2023	ISM Research Scholar - Yale Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University, USA.
2020–2022	Austrian Research Fund Center (FWF), Vienna (Project of Cataloguing SOP Manuscripts).
2020	Yale Institute of Sacred Music / Beinecke Library, short-term fellowship, USA.
2018–2019	ISM Selected Fellow - Yale Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University, USA.
2017–2019	Fondazione per le Scienze Religiose, Bologna. Giovanni XXIII Postdoc Fellowship, Italy.
2016	Hill Museum & Manuscript Library, Minnesota, Nicky B. Carpenter Fellowship, USA.
2016	Beth Mardutho Syriac Summer School lecturer, New Jersey, USA.
2014–2016	Austrian Research Fund Center (FWF), Vienna (Syriac Anaphoras Project), Austria.
2013–2014	JOSYLEEM Erasmus Mundus mobility / Vestigia Manuscript Center, Graz, Austria.
2013	Hill Museum & Manuscript Library, Swenson Family Fellowship, Minnesota, USA.
2012–2013	Université Catholique de Louvain la Neuve, Louvain, Belgium.
2012	Centre de Conservation du Livre, Arles, France.
2011	Hill Museum & Manuscript Library, Heckman Stipend, Minnesota, USA.
2011	Beth Mardutho Internship, New Jersey, USA.
2010–2013	Cover-tuition PhD, The Holy Spirit University, Kaslik, Lebanon.
2006-2008	Cover-tuition MA, St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, New York, USA.

INVITED TALKS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

1. June 2023 "Expensive Blessings in the Syriac Liturgical Tradition", in *Ninth North American Syriac Symposium*, and in 2023 Liturgy Conference (plenary lecture), Yale University, USA.

- **2.** May 2023 "Multilingualism in the Syriac Liturgical Manuscripts", Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University. Princeton, USA.
- **3.** March 2023 "The Canons of Nicaea and their Transmission, Respondent", online Seminar, Discussing the Documents of the Arian Controversy, University of Vienna, Austria.
- **4.** March 2023 "Commenting on Commentaries of the Syriac Liturgy", Yale Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University, USA.
- **5.** March 2023 "Introduction to Symposium: 'But When You Pray' Eastern Christian Praying with Tears", Yale Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University, USA.
- **6.** Oct. 2022 "Historicizing the Syriac Anaphora of Mor Jacob of Edessa", Yale Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University, USA.
- **7.** July 2022 "Syriac Manuscript Colophons", an online talk for *HMML Syriac Summer School*, Hill Museum & Manuscript Library, Saint John's University, USA.
- **8.** July 2022 "Synodicon in East and West Syriac Manuscripts", in *Symposium Syriacum XIII*. Paris, France.
- **9.** July 2022 ""Let's raise up and build, Qoyminan w Bonenan!" Suryoyo Youth Global Gatherings and the Question of Syriac Identity", in *Symposium Syriacum XIII*. Paris, France.
- **10.** June 2022 "The Syriac and Arabic-Garshuni Manuscripts of Mor Ya'qub's Anaphora", in the interdisciplinary symposium on *The Liturgy of St James: Origins, Contexts, and Reception in East and West*, University of Regensburg, Regensburg, Germany.
- **11.** Jan. 2022 "Christians of Persia in the Collection of Synodicon Orientale", for the course of *Syriac Literature in Persia*, Seminar für Iranistik, University of Göttingen. Göttingen, Germany.
- **12.** Nov. 2021 "The Historical Synod of Seleucia-Ctesiphon (410 AD), according to its West and East Syriac Versions", Faculty of Evangelical Theology, Mainz University. Mainz, Germany.
- **13.** Sep. 2021 "In Margins of the Syriac Liturgical Manuscripts", Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University. Princeton, USA.
- **14.** March 2021 "The Original *Synodicon Orientale* Manuscript of *olim*. Baghdad 509: Historical, Codicological, Paleographical Remarks and a Critical Edition", FSCIRE / ReIReS. Bologna, Italy.
- **15.** Feb. 2020 "Uncatalogued Syriac Manuscripts at Yale", Yale University. New Haven, USA.

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- **16.** Nov. 2019 "Assemani and the Syrian 'Orthodox' Church Fathers", Vatican Library & the Pontifical Oriental Institute of Rome. Rome, Italy.
- **17.** Nov. 2019 "Like a Tree with Deep Roots: The Syrian Orthodox Church in Diaspora", *X Dies Academicus*, Ambrosiana Library Milan, Italy.
- **18.** May 2019 "Towards a Comprehensive Syriac Liturgical Corpus", University of Graz. Graz, Austria.
- **19.** April 2019 "Being Christians together? The Situation of Ecumenism in the Middle East. An Institutional Perspective", University of Göttingen. Göttingen, Germany.
- **20.** March 2019 "From Jerusalem to Beirut: Continuing the Ecumenical Mission of *Revue Proche-Orient Chrétien* (POC)". Bologna, Italy.
- **21.** Nov. 2018 "Syriac Synods as Historical Sources", Franciscan Cultural Centre. Cairo, Egypt.
- **22.** Sep. 2018 "Preliminary Remarks on Synodicon Orientale Manuscript: Al-Qosh 169". Bologna, Italy.
- **23.** July 2018 "Searching for Identity: Syriac Christians in the Late Ottoman Empire". Seville, Spain.
- **24.** June 2018 "Syriac Liturgical Manuscripts in Garshuni". Sigtuna, Sweden.
- **25.** May 2018 "Between Canonical and Liturgical Anaphoras", Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin, Germany.
- **26.** April 2018 "Eschatology in Jacob of Edessa's Anaphora". Drobeta Turnu Severin, Romania.
- 27. March 2018 "Syriac Liturgy in the Sixteenth Century", Oxford University. Oxford, UK.
- **28.** March 2018 "Living in Trauma: Syriac Christians after Sayfo Genocide", in the First European Academy of Religion Conference. Bologna, Italy.
- **29.** Feb. 2018 "Liturgy in the Time of Mor Severus", in the international academic Symposium on "Severus of Antioch and his Search for the Unity of the Church", University of Salzburg, Austria.
- **30.** Jan. 2018 "Studying Syriac Liturgies in Manuscripts", Franciscan Cultural Centre. Cairo, Egypt.
- **31.** Nov. 2017 "From Ancient Manuscripts to Digital Screens: Syriac Liturgy in Digital Humanities" in 2nd International Symposium Digital Humanities: Empowering Visibility of Croatian Cultural Heritage, University of Zadar, Zadar, Croatia.

- **32.** Apr. 2017 "The Wandering Syrians The fate of Syriac Christians during the First World War and in the Contemporary Middle East" in the Seminar *Die Flüchtlingskrise aus der Perspektive orientalischer Flüchtlinge*. University of Salzburg, Austria.
- **33.** Apr. 2017 "Late Syriac Anaphoras: Maphrian 'Abd Al-Ghani's Anaphora as an Example" in the International Colloquium *Anaphora in Syriac Rites*, Holy Spirit University of Kaslik, Lebanon.
- **34.** Jan. 2017 "Bnay Qyama Syriac Monastic Heritage" in the Second International Conference on the Monastic Heritage in the Middle East. Cairo, Egypt.
- **35.** Oct. 2016 "Manuscripts as Refugees: Losing Identity?" in Conference and School APAE on *Authority, Provenance, Authenticity, Evidence*, University of Zadar, Zadar, Croatia.
- **36.** Aug. 2016 "What Can We Learn from Syriac Liturgical Manuscripts?" Beth Mardutho. NJ, USA.
- **37.** Aug. 2016 "Introduction to Syriac Liturgical Books and Manuscripts", Hill Museum & Manuscript Library. MN, USA.
- **38.** Aug. 2016 "Maphrian Basilius 'Abd Al-Ghani's Anaphora and the Syriac Church in Late 16th Century" in the XII Symposium Syriacum. Rome, Italy.
- **39.** Nov. 2015 "Schools Education & Wars: The Syrian Case", University of Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria.
- **40.** Nov. 2015 "Libraries in Times of War: The Syrian Case", University of Vienna, Austria.
- **41.** Jun. 2015 "Sayfo 1915: The Case of Mansurieh Village", Freie Universität Berlin. Berlin, Germany.
- **42.** Jun. 2015 "Syriac Pro-Monasticism: Need to Revive for our World Today?", University of Graz, Austria.
- **43.** Dec. 2014 "Syria: Past, Present and Future", University of Graz. Graz, Austria.
- **44.** March 2014 "The Syrian Conflict: A Clash of Civilizations?" University of Graz. Graz, Austria.
- **45.** July 2012 "Jacob of Edessa's *Hexaemeron* Compared with Basil of Caesarea's *Hexaemeron*" Malta University. Valletta, Malta.
- **46.** May 2012 "Daniel of Salah's Psalms Commentary" Charfet Seminary. Jounieh, Lebanon.

TEACHING

Spring 2023 "Christian Eastern Rites and the Syriac Liturgical Year", Yale Divinity School, Yale University – New Haven, USA.

Fall 2022 Co-teaching with Prof. Bryan D. Spinks "The Eucharistic Prayer and Eucharistic Theology", Yale Divinity School, Yale University – New Haven, USA.

July 2022 Lecturer in: Late Antique Political Theology from the Early Church to the Byzantine Era International Summer school on: "Politics, Canons and Syriac Liturgy in Late Antiquity: 1) Vicarious Kingship in Early Syriac Literature: Ephrem the Syrian and Jacob of Serugh; 2) A Persecuted Patriarchate under Chalcedonian Rulers: Severus of Antioch; 3) Syriac Church between Byzantine Kings and Early Islam: Jacob of Edessa; 4) Toward a Better Understanding to Syriac Political Theology in Late Antiquity (Seminar and Reflections)", Central European University - Budapest, Hungary.

2021–2022 Co-teaching with Prof. István Perczel "Barhebraeus' Laughable Stories - A Medieval Joke Collection in Classical Syriac", Central European University - Vienna, Austria.

2019– Teaching Syriac Language (various levels), Central European University - Vienna, Austria.

2020 Course: "Syriac Manuscripts: Paleography and Codicology", Graz, Austria.

2019 Lecturer in Middle Eastern Christianity Course: "Christians in the Holy Land: Struggling for Future?" & "Syrian Christians in the Midst of War", University of Graz, Austria.

July 2018 Lecturer in "Hidden Libraries II" summer school. "Hidden in bindings – Scattered Fragments in Syriac Manuscripts", "Hidden Libraries in Conflict Zones of the Middle East", University of Graz, Austria.

June 2018 "Syrian Christians in History and Present", in a seminar on Syria, University of Vienna.

January 2018 Workshop on "Syriac Liturgical Manuscripts from an Ecumenical Approach", Franciscan Cultural Centre, Cairo, Egypt.

2016–2018 MA Course: "Theology of the Sacraments & Anaphoras in Ecumenical Context", University of Salzburg.

July 2016 Guest Lecturer: "Studying Liturgical Manuscripts," Beth Mardutho Summer School, New Jersey, USA.

2015–2017 MA Course: "Syriac Commentaries on the Liturgy", University of Salzburg.

2015–2017 MA Course: "Introduction to the Syriac Liturgical Year, Feasts and Liturgical Literature", University of Salzburg.

October 2016 "Syriac Manuscripts as Refugees" in School APAE on *Authority, Provenance, Authenticity, Evidence*, University of Zadar, Zadar, Croatia.

Guest Lecturer, "Patristics 101: Syriac Fathers", Faculty of Theology, University of Graz.

- July 2014 Lecturer in the "Hidden Libraries I" summer school. "Manuscripts in the Time of Wars: The Syrian Case", University of Graz, Austria.
- 2014–2019 Guest Lecturer, "Middle East and Christianity", Faculty of Theology, University of Graz.

ACADEMIC, ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

- March 2023 Organizer of a mini-Symposium: 'But When You Pray' Eastern Christian Praying with Tears, Yale Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University, USA.
- Nov. 2022 Invited to the international academic conference on: "Synodality in the Life and Mission of the Ancient Oriental Churches", Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), Rome, Italy.
- May 2022 Pro Oriente Commission for Ecumenical Encounter between the Oriental Orthodox Churches and the Catholic Church (CEE): 2nd Consultation, Vienna, Austria
- Sep. 2021 *G20 Interfaith Forum 2021*: "Time to Heal: Peace Among Cultures, Understanding Between Religions", Bologna, Italy.
- 2021– Eastern Christianity in Interfaith Contexts International Reading Group, Oxford, UK.
- 2019– Consultant for the Syrian Orthodox Patriarchate Committee on Liturgy and Manuscripts.
- Nov. 2019 The 6th Colloquium Syriacum of Pro Oriente Syriac Dialogue: "Celebrating 25 Years of Pro Oriente Syriac Dialogue with Hope towards the Future: Living Together and Common Witness of the Syriac Tradition", Vienna, Austria.
- May 2019 Organizing a symposium: "Tracing Written Heritage in a Digital Age", University of Graz.
- April 2019 Invited to *The 6th International Consultation of "Studium im Mittleren Osten" (SiMO) & the Near East School of Theology*, April 2019, University of Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany
- March 2019 Organizer for the *Second Syriac Day of Bologna*, "Yawmo Suryoyo Trayono dBologna", European Academy of Religion annual conference (EuARe 2019), Bologna, Italy.
- Sep. 2018 Organizer of a writing interreligious workshop on: "When I Met the Other", Graz, Austria.
- July 2018 Participant in Pro Oriente summer school on the 70th anniversary of WCC, Vienna, Austria.
- July 2018 Participant in WOCMES: 5th World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies, Seville, Spain.
- June 2018 Participating in the international conference "The Future of Syriac Studies and the Legacy of Sebastian P. Brock", Sigtuna, Sweden.
- May 2018 KAICIID workshop for interreligious dialogue and peace building, Jakarta, Indonesia.

March 2018 Organizer: Bologna First Syriac Day "Yawmo Suryoyo Qadmoyo dBologna" in the First European Academy of Religion Conference, Bologna, Italy.

Feb. 2018	Co-organizer for symposium on "Severus of Antioch", University of Salzburg, Austria.
2017	Pro Oriente's Fifth Colloquium Syriacum, Vienna, Austria.
2014–	Member of the international academic Society of Oriental Liturgy (SOL).
2012	Co-organizer for the First Charfet Syriac Catholic Symposium, Daroun, Jounieh, Lebanon.
2009–2010	Participant in "the Role of Women in the Islamic – Christian Dialogue", Lebanon.
2009–2010	Organizer for Coptic-Syriac Orthodox liturgies in Aleppo, Syria.
2008–2010	Co-organizer for the First and Second Aleppo Syriac Colloquia, Syria.
2008	Co-organizer of the official celebrations in commemoration of Mor Jacob of Edessa, Aleppo.

INTERVIEWS, MEDIA AND PRESS RELEASES (select)

March 2022 TV Lecture on "Syriac Liturgical Manuscripts and Fragments", for Urho - The Way TV: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A52qUxh4FOM

March 2021 "Working with Syriac Fragments and the Role of Social Media – an Interview with Ephrem Ishac", by ReIReS – Research Infrastructure on Religious Studies: https://reires.eu/5654/working-with-syriac-fragments-and-the-role-of-social-media/25/

August 2020 "From Syria to Yerevan and from Egypt to London – an Interview with Ephrem Ishac", by ReIReS – Research Infrastructure on Religious Studies: https://reires.eu/4693/from-syria-to-yerevan-and-from-egypt-to-london-an-interview-with-ephrem-ishac/07/

August 2020 "Reunited after one millennium", Vestigia Press Release on a new finding: https://vestigia.uni-graz.at/de/neuigkeiten/detail/article/reunited-after-one-millennium/

July 2020 "(R)Ausblick: Die Biblioteca Giuseppe Dossetti der Fondazione per le Scienze Religiose Giovanni XXIII in Bologna – Mit Fragen an den Direktor der Stiftung und der Bibliothek, Univ.-Prof. Dr. Alberto Melloni sowie an den Forscher Dr. Ephrem Aboud Ishac von der Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz" by Dr. Claudia Sojer - Innsbruck University: https://journals.univie.ac.at/index.php/voebm/article/view/3610

April 2020 "Conversation with Ephrem Ishac: Short-term fellow at the ISM", in *Prism – Yale Institute of Sacred Music Magazine*, pp. 9–10: https://ism.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/PrismSpring2020F.pdf

May 2015 "Gefährdete Bücher in Zeiten des Terrors", by Dr. Doris Griesser, *Der Standard*: http://derstandard.at/2000012754835/Gefaehrdete-Buecher-in-Zeiten-des-Terrors