

Grigory Kessel

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CURRICULUM VITAE

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Syriac Christianity; Oriental Christianity; Philology; Late Antique and Byzantine Studies; Manuscript Studies; Palimpsest Studies; Ancient Medicine; Medieval Medicine; Graeco-Syriac and Graeco-Arabic translations; Digital Humanities

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study

Member, 2021 – 2022

Division of Byzantine Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences

Senior Academy Scientist, 2022 –

Division of Byzantine Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences

Research Associate, 2016 – 2021.

Project Leader: ERC project *Transmission of Classical Scientific and Philosophical Literature from Greek into Syriac and Arabic* (HUNAYNNET)

School of Arts, Languages and Cultures, University of Manchester

Research Associate, 2016 – 2021.

Individual research project, funded by the Wellcome Trust fellowship in medical humanities, *The 'Syriac Epidemics' - Reception and Transmission of Classical Medicine in the East*

Faculty of Theology, Philipps Universität (Marburg)

Postdoctoral Researcher, 2006 – 2016.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Religious Studies, Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen, 2018

Dissertation: *Life and Works of Šem ‘ōn d-Taibūtēh (7th Century): A Tentative Reconstruction*

Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Herman Teule

Ph.D., History, Institute of World History (Russian Academy of Sciences), 2008

Dissertation: *A Letter of Thomas the Monk: Problems of Dating, Attribution and Localization in the Context of the History of Syriac Christianity*

Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Alexei Muraviev

M.A., Philosophy, Moscow State University, 2003

Thesis: *Literary Heritage of Aphrahat*

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Alexei Muraviev

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Moscow Theological Academy, 2001–2006

Courses: Biblical Hebrew, Biblical Aramaic, Syriac

Teaching Assistant, Philipps-Universität Marburg, 2006–2016

Courses: Syriac language, Syriac literature

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2021 Member, Institute for Advanced Study, School of Historical Studies, Princeton, NJ

- 2015 Starting Grant, European Research Council (ERC),
- 2014 Research fellowship in the Medical Humanities, Wellcome Trust (London)
- 2012–2013 Fellow in Byzantine Studies, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library (Harvard University), Washington, DC
- 2011–2014 Research grant, German Research Foundation (DFG)
- 2010–2011 Postdoctoral research scholarship, Thyssen Stiftung
- 2005 Research Grant for visiting students, French Government
- 2004 Fellowship of the Institute of Eastern Christian Studies, Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen

ORGANIZATION OF CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

- 2017 International workshop on lemmatisation and morphological analysis of Syriac texts (University of Manchester), organized in the context of ERC Project *Transmission of Classical Scientific and Philosophical Literature from Greek into Syriac and Arabic* (HUNAYNNET)
- 2018 ‘New Light on Old Manuscripts: Recent Advances in Palimpsest Studies’ (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna; in collaboration with Prof. Claudia Rapp, Dr. Jana Gruskova and Dr. Giulia Rossetto)
- 2019 ‘Coding and Encoding: New Approaches to the Study of Syriac and Arabic Translations of Greek Scientific and Philosophical Texts’ (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna), international workshop organized in the context of ERC Project *Transmission of Classical Scientific and Philosophical Literature from Greek into Syriac and Arabic* (HUNAYNNET)

MEMBERSHIP OF EDITORIAL AND ADVISORY BOARDS

Journal of Eastern Christian Studies

Khristiansky Vostok

AION: Annali dell'Università degli Studi di Napoli «L'Orientale»

Editor of the book series 'Paradies der Väter – Schriften syrischer Mystiker' (Beuron: Beuroner Kunstverlag)

PARTICIPATION IN THE RESEARCH PROJECTS

2009 – present external cataloguer of Syriac and Arabic Christian manuscripts for the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library (HMML), Collegeville, MN, USA

2015 – 2020 cooperation partner, 'The Syriac Galen Palimpsest: Galen's On Simple Drugs and the Recovery of Lost Texts through Sophisticated Imaging Techniques' funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council

Principal Investigator: Prof. Peter E. Pormann

2013 – present cooperation partner, Research Training Group 'Frühe Konzepte von Mensch und Natur' funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG)

Principal Investigator: Prof. Dr. Tanja Pommerening (Mainz University)

2013 – 2018 participating scholar, 'Sinai Palimpsests Project' funded by the Arcadia Fund
Principal Investigators: Michael Phelps (Early Manuscript Electronic Library), Prof. Dr. Claudia Rapp (Vienna University)

2012 – 2016 participating scholar, 'De Babylone à Bagdad: une histoire des 'herbiers' au Proche-Orient' funded by the European Research Council (ERC)
Principal Investigator: Dr. Robert Hawley (CNRS, Paris)

2010 – 2014 participating scholar, ‘Comparative Oriental Manuscripts Project’ (COMSt)
funded by the European Science Foundation
Principal Investigator: Prof. Dr. Alessandro Bausi (Hamburg University)

SERVICE

Creator and editor of the database ‘Syriac Editions and Translations in Progress’,
<http://syri.ac/editions>

Member of the New Handbook of Syriac Literature Editorial Committee, <http://syriaca.org/nhs1>

Reviewer of the applications for the European Research Council (ERC), Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek – Vlaanderen (FWO), University of Strasbourg Institute for Advanced Study (USIAS).

Reviewer of the submissions for the *Aramaic Studies*, *Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies*, *International Journal of the Classical Tradition*, BRILL.

MEDIA COVERAGE (selection)

‘Medicine’s Hidden Roots in an Ancient Manuscript’, *The New York Times*, June 1, 2015
<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/02/science/medicines-hidden-roots-in-an-ancient-manuscript.html>

‘Em manuscrito antigo, as raízes ocultas da medicina’, *Estadão*, June 3, 2015
<https://ciencia.estadao.com.br/noticias/geral,em-manuscrito-antigo--as-raizes-ocultas-da-medicina,1699341>

‘1,400-year-old medicinal treatise of Galen found hidden under hymns in ancient manuscript’, *Ancient Origins*, June 3, 2015
<https://www.ancient-origins.net/news-history-archaeology/1400-year-old-medicinal-treatise-galen-found-hidden-under-hymns-ancient-020371>

'Las raíces ocultas de la medicina, en un antiguo manuscrito', *El País*, June 11, 2015
https://elpais.com/elpais/2015/06/11/ciencia/1434006669_068676.html

'Manuscrito revela raízes da medicina', *Folha de S.Paolo*, June 13, 2015
<https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/ciencia/2015/06/1641618-manuscrito-revela-65279raizes-da-medicina.shtml>

'Las raíces de la medicina en un antiguo manuscrito', *La gaceta salta*, June 13, 2015
<https://www.lagacetosalta.com.ar/nota/22868/sociedad/raices-medicina-antiguo-manuscrito.html>

'Determined Scholar Reassembles a 2nd-Century Medical Manual', *Hyperallergic*, June 15, 2015
<https://hyperallergic.com/212022/determined-scholar-reassembles-a-2nd-century-medical-manual/>

'The Syriac Galen Palimpsest: New Insight into a Major Galenic Work Hidden under Liturgical Writings', *Jeremy Norman's History of Information*, June 2015
<http://www.historyofinformation.com/detail.php?id=4347>

'Aus dem Alltag eines Medizinhistorikers', *Welterbe Klostermedizin*
<http://www.welterbe-klostermedizin.de/index.php/blog/199-aus-dem-alltag-eines-medizinhistorikers>

'Descubren un texto médico del siglo VI oculto en un código religioso', *Computer Hoy*, March 15, 2018
<https://computerhoy.com/noticias/life/descubren-texto-medico-del-siglo-vi-oculto-codice-religioso-77547>

'Jäger der verlorenen Schrift', Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, April 25, 2018
<https://www.oeaw.ac.at/detail/news/jaeger-der-verlorenen-schrift/>

'Addenda to the Syriac Tradition of the Infancy Gospel of Thomas: A Neglected Edition of the Life of Mary and a Forgotten Palimpsest', *Apocryphicity*, November 27, 2018

<https://www.apocryphicity.ca/2017/08/23/addenda-to-syriac-tradition-of-the-infancy-gospel-of-thomas-a-neglected-edition-of-the-life-of-mary-and-a-forgotten-palimpsest/>