

Dr. Adrian C. Pirtea
Curriculum Vitae (December 2023)

OFFICE ADDRESS

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CURRENT AND PAST ACADEMIC POSITIONS

10/2023 –	Junior Group Leader/Postdoctoral Researcher PI of the ERC StG Project 'Reviving the Ascetic Ideal in the Eastern Mediterranean (969-1375 AD)' (2023-2028) Department of Byzantine Research, Institute for Medieval Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna
09/2022 – 08/2023	Visiting Postdoctoral Research Fellow Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin
09/2020 – 08/2022	Marie-Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Researcher Institute for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies University of Vienna, Austria
12/2017 – 08/2020	Postdoctoral Researcher (50%) Long-term Project: <i>Corpus Coranicum</i> , Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences, Potsdam, Germany
04/2017 – 08/2020	University Assistant (Postdoc) (50%) Chair of Byzantine Studies, Institute for Greek and Latin Philology Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

EDUCATION

2012 – 2017	PhD in Byzantine and Oriental Christian Studies Institute of Greek and Latin Philology / Institute of Semitic and Arabic Studies; Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
2008 – 2009, 2011 – 2012	M.A. in Jewish Studies Faculty of Letters, University of Bucharest, Romania

2009 – 2011	M.A. in Medieval Studies Friedrich-Meinecke-Institut, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
2004 – 2008	B.A. in History and English Philology Faculty of History, University of Bucharest, Romania

FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS

10/2023 –	ERC Starting Grant: <i>Reviving the Ascetic Ideal in the Eastern Mediterranean: Entangled Memories of Early Egyptian Monasticism in Medieval Syriac, Arabic, and Armenian Christianity (969-1375 CE)</i> RevIdEM - Grant Nr. 101078631. Funding: 1.496.657,50 EUR
09/2020 – 08/2022	Marie-Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship (REA) Institute for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies University of Vienna (Grant Nr. 841476. Funding: 186167.04 EUR)
03/2019 – 12/2019	Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Research Project: <i>Theories of Divination in Late Antiquity and Early Byzantium (2nd-7th centuries)</i> , PI: Prof. Andrei Timotin “Alexandru Dragomir” Institute for Philosophy, Bucharest
09/2018 – 10/2018	Swenson Family Fellowship in Eastern Christian Manuscript Studies Hill Manuscript Museum & Library St. John’s University, Collegeville, MI, USA.
10/2016 – 02/2017	Junior Research Fellowship “Principles of Cultural Dynamics”-Network École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France
08/2016 – 09/2016	Dahlem Junior Host Program Dahlem Research School, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
01/2016 – 04/2016	Henri Frankfort/Grete Sondheimer Fellowship The Warburg Institute, School of Advanced Studies, University of London, United Kingdom
10/2012 – 03/2016	DAAD Full PhD Scholarship at the FU Berlin

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Summer 2022	Vorlesung: <i>The Ascetic Ideal in Byzantium and the Eastern Mediterranean</i> (in English), Universität Wien
Winter 2019 – 2020	Seminar: <i>The Cult of Mary in Byzantium, the Christian Orient and the Qur’an</i> (in German). Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
Winter 2019 – 2020	Seminar: <i>Byzantine and Christian Oriental Hagiography</i> (in German). Freie Universität Berlin
Summer 2019	Seminar: <i>Apocalypse Now! Or Later? Visions of the End in Byzantine and Western Christianity</i> (in English). Freie Universität Berlin
Winter 2018 – 2019	Seminar: <i>Introduction to East Christian Manuscript Studies</i> (in German). Freie Universität Berlin

Summer 2018	Seminar: <i>Monks and Mystics in Byzantium (7th-14th centuries)</i> (in German). Freie Universität Berlin
Winter 2017 – 2018	Seminar: <i>A Byzantine Legend of the Buddha: The Romance of Barlaam and Joasaph</i> (in German). Freie Universität Berlin
Summer 2017	Seminar: <i>The Call of the Desert: Ascetical and Mystical Literature in Late Antiquity (4th-6th centuries)</i> (in German). Freie Universität Berlin
Spring 2016	Reading Group: <i>Classical Syriac</i> (in English). Warburg Institute, London

ORGANIZATION OF CONFERENCES, ACADEMIC AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

04/2022	International Workshop: “Monastic Literature in the Multilingual Context of Early Islamic Palestine and Sinai: Manuscripts, Scribes, Readers” (with Prof. Claudia Rapp). Universität Wien (ca. 180 registered online participants)
07/2019	Main Coordination of the Summer School <i>Comprehending “Byzantium after Byzantium.” An Introduction to Ottoman Historical Sources</i> (tutor: Dr. Georgios Liakopoulos), Freie Universität Berlin, Germany (ca. 25 participants)
2017 – 2019	Annual organization of public engagement events of the Chair of Byzantine Studies at the <i>Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften</i> (“Long Night of Sciences”), Freie Universität Berlin (30-40 participants)
2017 – 2019	Annual presentation of the undergraduate study program of Byzantine Studies at the University open-doors events (“InFU-Tage”), Freie Universität Berlin (20-25 participants)
6/2018	Organization of the public lecture <i>On Forgotten Christian Kingdoms in Africa</i> (speaker: Dr. Alexandros Tsakos, Bergen) at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences, Berlin, Germany (ca. 35-40 participants)
3/2018	Member of the organizing committee of the Seventh Annual Conference of the International Society of Arabic Papyrology (ISAP), Berlin (ca. 100-120 participants)
12/2017	Public Event: “Byzantium as Mediator Between East and West”, open dialogue with Manolis Ulbricht, Deutsch-Griechische Gesellschaft, Humboldt-University, Berlin (ca. 30 participants)
11/2017	Public Event: “Christians and Muslims in Syria and Iraq in the Early Byzantine Period”, open dialogue with Manolis Ulbricht, Exantas e.V., Berlin (ca. 50 participants)

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

7/2023	External Evaluator for PhD Thesis (Macquarie University, Australia)
11/2022	External Evaluator for PhD Thesis (University of Bergen)

2020 – 2021	Member of Doctoral Committees at FU Berlin; La Sapienza University, Roma (co-tutelle with FU Berlin); TEEME Graduate School (University of Kent – FU Berlin)
2017 – 2020	Undergraduate Examination Committees, FU Berlin
2017 – 2020	Coordination of Doctoral Research Colloquia, FU Berlin
2017 – 2020	Teaching Planning and Coordination, Institute for Greek and Latin Philology, FU Berlin (shared responsibility)
2017 – 2020	Institute Coordinator for incoming and outgoing ERASMUS+ students at the Institute for Greek and Latin Philology, FU Berlin (shared responsibility)

COMMISSIONS OF TRUST

2023 -	Reviewer for <i>Journal of Early Christian Studies</i>
2021 -	Editorial Board Member, <i>Eastern Christian Cultures in Contact</i> Series, Brepols Publishers, Turnhout
2021 -	Reviewer for academic journal <i>Journal of Orthodox Christian Studies</i>
2021 -	Reviewer for academic monographs: Routledge
2020 -	Reviewer for academic monographs: Oxford University Press
2019 -	Reviewer for academic monographs: Gorgias Press
2019 -	Reviewer for the academic journal <i>RursuSpicae</i> (Paris)
2019 -	Reviewer for the academic journal <i>Entangled Religions</i> (Bochum)
2017 -	Series Editor: <i>Gorgias Studies in Classical and Late Antiquity</i> , Gorgias Press (Piscataway, NJ)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Romanian (native) | **German, English** (proficient) | **French, Italian, Spanish, Modern Greek** (reading knowledge)

Ancient Languages: **Syriac, Greek, Arabic, Latin, Hebrew, Aramaic, Sogdian, Persian** (good) | **Pahlavi, Parthian, Coptic, Armenian, Church Slavonic** (basic working knowledge)

Participation in International Conferences, Scientific Workshops, Invited Lectures

1. "Pseudo-Planets and Eclipse Deities in the Astral Sciences of Medieval Eurasia." *Conference: "Transmission, Translocation, Transcreation. A Cultural Kinematics of Astral Knowledge. University of Copenhagen, 13-15 November 2023.*
2. "Safeguarding the Patristic Heritage at the Dawn of the First Crusade: Sinai Arab. 481 and Its Scribe, the Priest Butrus (Peter)." *Conference 'Priests and Their Manuscripts in the Holy Land and Sinai. Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, 8-10 November 2023.*
3. "Astral and Other Sciences in the Medieval Uyghur Kingdom of Qocho (Turfan)." *The 16th International Conference on the History of Science in East Asia. Goethe University, Frankfurt a.M., 21-25 August 2023.*

4. "Egyptian Desert Father or Syrian Mystic? Shaping the Memory of Macarius the Great in East Syriac Mystical Literature (7th-8th centuries)." *International Conference "The Greek Sources of East Syriac Mysticism"*. **KU Leuven, 26-28 June 2023.**
5. "Narratives of Recovered Antediluvian Wisdom in the Byzantine and Islamic Intellectual Traditions." *Second Workshop on Arabo-Greek Studies, Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, 9-10 June 2023.*
6. "Celestial Omen Texts in Late Antique and Early Medieval Eurasia. Towards a Connected History of the Astral Sciences." *Research Colloquium 'ZODIAC'. Institut für Wissensgeschichte, FU Berlin, 5 June 2023.*
7. "Christian Arabic *Apocrypha* and Homilies on the Dormition of the Theotokos." *Conference: Bible and Arab Christianity, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, 28-29 April, 2023.*
8. "The Earliest Arabic Version of the *Six Books on the Dormition of the Virgin Mary*. Manuscripts and Contexts." *Second IOTA Megaconference, Theological Academy Volos, 11-15 January, 2023.*
9. "The Book of the Egyptian Fathers: Organizing Late Antique Ascetic Knowledge in Syriac Monastic Anthologies." *All Who Encounter This Book – The Transmission and Reception of Late Antique and Medieval Texts in Syriac Manuscripts. KU Leuven, 14-16 December, 2022.*
10. "Messengers of God. Prophethood, Apostleship and Typological Thought in Late Antique Syriac Christianity." *The Qur'an and Syriac Christianity. Recurring Themes and Motifs. University of Tübingen, 5-7 December, 2022.*
11. "Greek Collections of *Ascetica* in Early Islamic Palestine." *24th International Congress of Byzantine Studies. Venice and Padua, 22-27 August, 2022.*
12. "Perception and the Spiritual Senses in Seventh-Century Byzantine Ascetic Thought. From Origen and Evagrius to Maximus the Confessor." *International Congress: Origeniana Tertia Decima, Münster, 15-19 August, 2022.* Online.
13. "The Earliest Ascetic Anthologies in Arabic. Typology, Models, Contexts of Use." *XIe Congrès d'Études arabes chrétiennes, Paris, 4-9 July, 2022.*
14. "Are there Syro-Melkite Collections of the *Apophthegmata Patrum*? Distinctive Features of Syriac and Greek *Paterika* from Early Islamic Palestine and Sinai." *Symposium Syriacum XIII, Paris, 4-9 July, 2022.*
15. "The Anonymous Syriac Commentary to Evagrius' Gnostic Trilogy – Authorship, Context, Doctrine." *Évagre en Orient. Novae a(m)bitiones, Colloque International. Strasbourg, 22-23 June, 2022.*
16. "Syriac Monastic Networks and the Transfer of Knowledge between the Eastern Mediterranean, Sasanian Iran and Central Asia." *After Rome and Further East Seminar Series (Trinity Term 2022). Oxford, 9 June, 2022.*
17. "Syriac Melkites in the Early Islamic Period: History – Identity – Manuscript Culture." *Byzantine Worlds Seminar Series. University of Cambridge, 27 May, 2022.* Online.
18. "Three Saints, Four Languages, One Ascetic Corpus. The Convolved Transmission of Macarius/Symeon in Early Islamic Palestine." *Monastic Literature in the Multilingual Context of Early Islamic Palestine and Sinai: Manuscripts, Scribes, Readers, International Workshop (co-organised with Prof. Claudia Rapp). University of Vienna, 7-8 April, 2022.* Online.
19. "From Antioch to Samarkand: Melkite Communities East of Byzantium." *Fifth International Byzantine Seminar Lecture Series: Networks and Connectivity in and beyond Byzantium (IHAC, Northeast Normal University). Changchun, 24 November, 2021.* Online.
20. "Evagrian Mysticism in the Syriac Twelfth Century. Dionysius' Commentary on the *Kephalaia Gnostika*." *Dionysius bar Salibi: A Polymath of the Syriac Renaissance, International Conference. KU Leuven, 8-10 November, 2021.* Online.
21. "Syriac and Arabic Readers of *Apocrypha* in Early Islamic Palestine: The Case of the Virgin's Heavenly Journey in the *Six Books on the Dormition*." *Online Lecture Series "Visions of Paradise and Hell" (Institute for the History of Religions, Romanian Academy). Bucharest, 18 October, 2021.* Online.
22. "Bizanțul în Asia Centrală. Manuscrisele din Turfan și cultul Maicii Domnului în Orientul creștin." *Lecture Series of the Romanian Society for Byzantine Studies (Institute for South-Eastern European Studies, Romanian Academy of Sciences). Bucharest, 25 May, 2021.* Online.
23. "Deification in the Syriac Fathers." *The IOTA Deification Colloquia (St. Thomas University). Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN, 26 February, 2021.* Online.
24. "Divine Incomprehensibility and Human Wonder (*tehrā*) in East Syriac Mystical Literature." *International Conference Siegel des Göttlichen. Von der Theologie zur Anthropologie und zurück. University of Bern, 30 September – 2 October, 2020.* Online.
25. "The Story of the Sleepers of Ephesus in Eastern Christianity and Early Islam." *Text and Transmission Joint Research Seminar, organised by A. Hilken and D. Batovici. KU Leuven / University of Ghent, 22 May, 2020.* Online.

26. "Stirrings of the Mind: Movement and Contemplation in East Syriac Mysticism." *Contemplative Traditions: A Symposium in Honour of Prof. Andrew Louth* (Skt. Ignatius Theological Academy). **Sigtuna, 12-15 December, 2019.**
27. "Between Byzantium, Sasanian Iran and the Qur'an: Greek and Syriac Hagiography in the 7th Century." *The Ninth European Conference of Iranian Studies – ECIS 9* (Freie Universität Berlin). **Berlin, 9-14 September, 2019.**
28. "The Power of Books. Arethas of Caesarea and His Commentary on the Apocalypse." *The Twelfth International Congress of South-East European Studies*. **Bucharest, 2-7, September 2019.**
29. "Syriac Monastic Charity and its Influence on Early Islam: Glimpses from an Unpublished Paper by Arthur Vööbus (ca. 1948)." *The 18th Oxford Patristics Conference*. **Oxford, 19-24 August, 2019.**
30. "Aristotelian and Biblical Cosmologies in Syriac Literature (3rd-10th centuries)." *International Conference: Natural Sciences and Technologies in Manuscripts and Artefacts* (Kekelidze Centre of Manuscripts/MPIWG Berlin). **Tbilisi, 27-28 June, 2019.**
31. "The Macrocosm-Microcosm Analogy in Manichaeism, Zoroastrianism, and Early Islamic Gnosis." *Formative Exchanges in the Islamicate World: Zoroastrianism, Manichaeism, and Islam in Contact* (Käte-Hamburger-Kolleg). **Ruhr-Universität Bochum, 5-6 June, 2019.**
32. "Gathering Souls Through Parables: The *Shepherd of Hermas* Fragment from Turfan (M97) and its Manichaean Context." *Versions of the Apostolic Past: Ancient Translations of the Apostolic Fathers*. **KU Leuven, 22-23 May, 2019.**
33. "The Sound of Silence: Spiritual Perception and Apophaticism in East Syriac Mystical Literature (7th-8th cent.)." *The International Orthodox Theology Association (IOTA) Inaugural Conference*. **Iasi, 9-12 January, 2019.**
34. "Philosophical Approaches to Spiritual Perception in the Multi-Religious Context of the Early Abbasid Period." *The Tenth German-Israel Seminar on the Frontiers of the Humanities* (Humboldt-Foundation). **Berlin, 19-21 November, 2018.**
35. "The Leiden Physiologus and some Overlooked Manuscripts in Syriac and Arabic." *The World of the Physiologus – Animal Stories and Representations in Oriental Manuscripts* (COMSt/Universität Hamburg). **Hamburg, 28-29 June, 2018.**
36. "Ascetic Struggle and Divine Providence: East Syriac Mysticism in Turfan." *International Workshop: Dall' Iran allo Xinjiang. Le comunità siro-orientali tra VI-XI sec.* (ÖAW/Pontificio Istituto Orientale). **Rome, 9 June, 2018.**
37. "Georg der Araberbischof und die syrische Kommentartradition zu Aristoteles' Organon im 8. Jh." *Der 10. Deutsche Syrologentag*. **Berlin, 30 May - 2 June, 2018.**
38. "The Buddha in the West: Real and Imagined Knowledge about Buddhism in Late Roman Egypt." *East-West Networks of the Ancient World, Part II*. **University of Bergen, 9 March, 2018.**
39. "The Messiah in China: Syriac Christianity and Manichaeism in Turfan." *East-West Networks of the Ancient World, Part I*. **University of Bergen, 7 March, 2018.**
40. "Eclipses, Dragons, Dark Planets. On the Function and Relevance of Lunar Nodes in Late Antique and Byzantine Astrology." *International Conference: Theories of Divination in Late Antiquity and Byzantium* (University of Bucharest/Romanian Academy of Sciences). **Bucharest, 17-18 November, 2017.**
41. "Syriac Literature as a Source for Understanding Justinian's Anathemas against Origen (543/553)." *First Annual Conference of the Romanian Society for Byzantine Studies* (Nicolae Iorga Institute for History). **Bucharest, 16 November, 2017.**
42. "The Eclipse Dragon in Syriac and Manichaean Sources." *East-West Encounter in the Science of Heaven and Earth, International Conference on Traditional Sciences in Asia* (Kyoto University). **Kyoto, 25-27 October, 2017.**
43. "Isaac of Nineveh's 'Gnostic Chapters' in Sogdian: The Identification of an Anonymous Text from Bulayiq and Its Relevance." *EASR Annual Conference 2017 "Communicating Religion."* Panel: *Versions of Late-Antique Christian Literature*. **Leuven, 18-21 September, 2017.**
44. "Pseudo-Macarius in the Melkite Tradition: Greek, Syriac, and Arabic Collections at St. Catherine's Monastery on Mt. Sinai." *The ARAM Society 46th International Conference on Melkite Christianity* (Oriental Institute). **Oxford, 12-14 July, 2017.**
45. "The Syriac Translations of Evagrius and the Spectre of Origenism." *International Conference: Translate, Mislead, Transmit. The Greek Fathers Between Latin Western and Syriac Eastern World* (Università Roma Tre). **Rome, 20-21 February, 2017.**

46. "Christ Descending in Disguise: An Origenist Idea in the Syriac *Physiologus*?" *German-Israel Fund (GIF) Seminar: Visitors from Heaven, Visitors to Heaven* (Freie Universität/TOPOI). **Berlin, 31 January, 2017.**
47. "Two Fountains Gushing Out by Nature's Impulse – Porphyry and Evagrius on Pleasure, Pain, and the Soul's Passions." *Platonism and Christian Thought in Late Antiquity: International Workshop on the Philosophy of Late Antiquity*. **Oslo, 1-3 December, 2016.**
48. "The Doctrine of Spiritual Senses in Eastern Syriac Christianity: Its Foundations in Late Antique Alexandria and Its Influence on Byzantine Mysticism." *IX^e Edition des Rencontres internationales des doctorants en études byzantines, INHA/ Sorbonne*. **Paris, 7–8 October, 2016.**
49. "Babai the Great and Dionysius bar Salibi on Evagrius' Theory of Spiritual Perception." *The XIIth International Symposium Syriacum* (Pontificio Istituto Orientale). **Rome, 19-24 August, 2016.**
50. "Feeling the Difference: Is the Syriac Reception of Evagrius Ponticus a Turning Point in Late Antique Christian Mysticism?." *18th OUBS Graduate Conference*. **Oxford, 26-27 Februar, 2016.**
51. "Aristoteles Syrus. Die Organon-Kommentierung in der syrischen Spätantike." *FU Berlin/SFB 980 – Episteme in Bewegung/Episteme in Motion Lectures*. **FU Berlin, 18 February, 2014.**
52. "Mind, Brain, Firmament: Anatomical and Cosmological Analogies in Late Antique Gnosis and Mysticism." *Fourth Dahlem Seminar in History of Science in Antiquity* (TOPOI). **FU Berlin, 28 Januar, 2014.**
53. "Inside the Gnostic's Mind: On the Transfigurative Function of *Nous/Haunā* in Manichaean and Eastern Syriac Religious Literature." *Der 32. Deutsche Orientalistentag* (University of Münster) – **Münster, 23-27 September, 2013.**
54. "Late Byzantine Jewry and the Transfer of Islamic Esotericism to Europe." *International Conference: 'The Jews of the Mediterranean'* (University of Bucharest/ New Europe College). **Bucharest, 24-25 May, 2012.**