



# Sunday, June 21

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**RECEPTION AND REGISTRATION (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM C)**

4:00-6:00

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**RAMSHĀ (VESPERS) (DOMINICAN HOUSE)**

5:30-6:00

A group will depart from the Pryzbyla Center at 5:15

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**DINNER (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM B)**

6:00-7:30

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**OPENING PROGRAM (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM A)**

7:30-8:00

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**PLENARY LECTURE (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM A)**

Chair: Edward Cook, The Catholic University of America

8:00-9:00 Bas ter Haar Romeny, VU University Amsterdam  
**How Greek was Syriac Christianity?**



# Monday, June 22

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## COFFEE AND TEA (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM C)

8:30-9:00

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### 1-A: NARSAI, JACOB, AND THE SCHOOL OF NISIBIS (PRYZBYLA 321)

Chair: Philip Michael Forness, Princeton Theological Seminary

- 9:00-9:30 Ute Possekkel, Harvard Divinity School  
‘The Mother of Sciences’: Some Reflections on the School of Nisibis
- 9:30-10:00 Erin Walsh, Duke University  
Comparing Narsai and Jacob of Serug on the Canaanite Woman: Ephrem’s Influence between East and West
- 10:00-10:30 Susan Harvey, Brown University  
‘With a Loud Voice’: Women’s Piety and Women’s Places in Jacob of Sarug
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### 1-B: SYRIAC, THE QUR’ĀN, AND ISLAM (PRYZBYLA 323)

Chair: Ryann Craig, The Catholic University of America

- 9:00-9:30 Andrew Hayes, University of St. Thomas  
Traces of the Qur’ān’s conversation with Philoxenian Christological Arguments
- 9:30-10:00 Rami Tanous, University of Toronto  
The Recasting of Mary’s Encounter with Gabriel: Parallels between Ephrem’s Hymns on the Nativity and Sūrat Maryam
- 10:00-10:30 Sandra Keating, Providence College  
A Brief Examination of the Biblical Sources for the Apology of al-Kindī

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**1-C: SYRIAC THEOLOGY IN THE 7TH AND 8TH CENT. (PRYZBYLA 327)**

Chair: Rifaat Ebied, The University of Sydney

9:00-9:30 Mary Hansbury, Philadelphia, PA  
The Concept of Faith in Isaac the Syrian in the  
Context of Early Syriac Theology

9:30-10:00 Jason Scully, Seton Hall University  
The Itinerant Mind in Dadisho of Qatar's  
Commentary on Abba Isaiah

10:00-10:30 Zack Ugolnik, Columbia University  
Seeing to be Seen: Mirrors and Angels in John of  
Dalyatha

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**COFFEE AND TEA (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM C)**

10:30-11:00

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**PLENARY LECTURE (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM A)**

Chair: Lev Weitz, The Catholic University of America

11:00-12:00 Dorothea Weltecke, University of Konstanz  
**On sources for the social and cultural history of  
Christians during the Syriac Renaissance**

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**LUNCH BREAK**

12:00-1:30 Local restaurants or Pryzbyla Center

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## **2-A: JACOB OF SERUGH ON ASCETICISM (PRYZBYLA 321)**

Chair: Susan Ashbrook Harvey, Brown University

- 1:30-2:00 Colby A. Scott, The Catholic University of America  
Mar Jacob of Serugh on the Evil One in the Life of  
the Monks: The Ephremic Influence on the Second  
Metrical Homily ‘On the Singles’
- 2:00-2:30 Dina Boero, University of Southern California  
Jacob of Serugh’s ‘Homily on Symeon’s Beauties’:  
Stylitism as Monastic Practice
- 2:30-3:00 Philip Michael Forness, Princeton Theological Seminary  
Asceticism and Christology: Paired Themes in the  
Letters of Jacob of Serugh
- 3:00-3:30 Daniel Caner, University of Connecticut  
Response
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## **2-B: LITURGY (PRYZBYLA 323)**

Chair: George Kiraz, Beth Mardutho: The Syriac Institute

- 1:30-2:00 Mark Roosien, University of Notre Dame  
Mystagogical Synthesis and Pastoral Concerns in the  
Liturgical Commentary of George, Bishop of the  
Arab Tribes
- 2:00-2:30 Jacob Thekeparambil, SEERI, Kottayam, Kerala  
The Parable of the Good Samaritan in Syriac  
Liturgical Traditions
- 2:30-3:00 Roby Alencherry, Good Shepherd Major Seminary  
Kunnoth, Kannur, Kerala  
The Liturgy of Ramsa (Evening Service) according to  
the Commentary of Gabriel Qatraya (VII Century)
- 3:00-3:30 J. F. Coakley, School of Oriental and African Studies,  
University of London  
An early Hudra from Turfan

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## **2-C: SYRIAC LANGUAGE (PRYZBYLA 327)**

Chair: Andrew Gross, The Catholic University of America

- 1:30-2:00 Adam McCollum, Hill Museum & Manuscript Library  
A Survey of Syriac-New Persian Textual Contacts
- 2:00-2:30 Paul Davis, The Catholic University of America  
The Script of Christian Palestinian Aramaic and its  
Relationship to Syriac Estrangelo
- 2:30-3:00 Vince Skemp, St. Catherine University  
Jerome's dependence on specific Aramaic and Syriac  
dialects
- 3:00-3:30 Marika Chachibaia, Tbilisi State University  
The Syriac Loans in the Oldest Georgian Editions of  
the Quadripartite
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## **COFFEE AND TEA (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM C)**

3:30-4:00

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## **3-A: GRAECO-SYRIACA (PRYZBYLA 321)**

Chair: William Klingshirm, The Catholic University of America

- 4:00-4:30 Yuliya Minets, The Catholic University of America  
The Interactions in Foreign Languages in the Syriac  
Literature of the 4th-7th Centuries
- 4:30-5:00 Yury Arzhanov, Ruhr University, Bochum  
Syriac Reception of Plato's *Republic*
- 5:00-5:30 Joel Kalvesmaki, Dumbarton Oaks  
The Syriac Versions of Evagrius's *Praktikos* and New  
Digital Approaches to Studying Translations

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### **3-B: SYRIAC THEOLOGY IN THE 5TH CENT. (PRYZBYLA 323)**

Chair: Kristian Heal, Brigham Young University

- 4:00-4:30 Robert Kitchen, Knox-Metropolitan United Church  
A Cloud of Witnesses and a Parrot: A New Entry into  
Isaac of Antioch's Mēmṛā on the Parrot
- 4:30-5:00 Rodrigue Constantin, The Catholic University of  
America  
Isaac of Antioch on Fasting
- 5:00-5:30 David Kiger, Marquette University  
The Invisible Silence of God's Wisdom: The  
Cosmological Foundations of John the Solitary
- 

### **3-C: THE SYRIAC RENAISSANCE AND BEYOND (PRYZBYLA 327)**

Chair: Adam McCollum, Hill Museum & Manuscript Library

- 4:00-4:30 Tala Jarjour, University of Notre Dame  
The Musical Aesthetics of Religiosity: Barhebraeus's  
Ethicon and Timeless Spiritual Etiquette
- 4:30-5:00 Alessandro Mengozzi, Università degli Studi di Torino  
Turgame from the Book of Khamis bar Qardahe (late  
13th century)
- 5:00-5:30 Jan van Ginkel, VU University Amsterdam  
Copying the Alexander Romance. Formulaic and  
non-Formulaic Elements in East Syrian Colophons of  
the 18th and 19th Century
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### **CONFERENCE PICTURE (BEHIND THE PRYZBYLA)**

5:30-6:00

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### **DINNER (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM B)**

6:00-7:30

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**TOOLS SESSION (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM A)**

7:30-9:00

Chair: Scott Johnson, University of Oklahoma

David A. Michelson, Vanderbilt University  
Jeanne-Nicole Saint-Laurent, Marquette University  
**Syriaca.org**

Kristian Heal, Brigham Young University  
**BYU-Oxford Corpus Project**

Maria Conterno, Ghent University  
**UGent Late Antique Historiography**

Adam McCollum, Hill Museum & Manuscript Library  
**Hill Museum & Manuscript Library**

George Kiraz, Beth Mardutho: The Syriac Institute  
**SEDRA**



# Tuesday, June 23

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## COFFEE AND TEA (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM C)

8:30-9:00

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### 4-A: BIG QUESTIONS (PRYZBYLA 321)

Chair: Maria Doerfler, Duke Divinity School

- 9:00-9:30 Kristian Heal, Brigham Young University  
Syriac Studies—A Lamentable Misnomer?
- 9:30-10:00 Grigory Kessel, Philipps Universität, Marburg  
Cataloguing of Syriac manuscripts in the United States: status quaestionis
- 10:00-10:30 Scott Johnson, University of Oklahoma  
Where is Syriac Pilgrimage Literature in Late Antiquity? Explaining the Absence of a Genre
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### 4-B: EPHREM'S LENTEN AND PASCHAL HYMNS (PRYZBYLA 323)

Chair: Robin Darling Young, The Catholic University of America

- 9:00-9:30 Andrew Litke, The Catholic University of America  
The Violence of Fresh Blossoms: Breaking and Splitting in Ephrem's Third Hymn on the Resurrection
- 9:30-10:00 Joshua Falconer, The Catholic University of America  
Poetics of Desire in Ephrem's *Madrašê* on Fasting
- 10:00-10:30 Blake Hartung, Saint Louis University  
The Significance of Astronomical and Calendrical Theories for Ephrem's Interpretation of the Three Days of Jesus' Death



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**4-C: HISTORIOGRAPHY UNDER ISLAM (PRYZBYLA 327)**

Chair: Thomas A. Carlson, Oklahoma State University

- 9:00-9:30 Ashoor Yousif, University of Toronto  
The History of Early Abbasid Caliphs (786-842 CE)  
in Syriac Sources
- 9:30-10:00 Kyle Longworth, The University of Chicago  
The First Fitna in the ninth-century Syriac Chronicle  
of Dionysius of Telmahre
- 10:00-10:30 Maria Conterno, Ghent University  
Christian Arabic historiography at the crossroads  
between the Byzantine, the Syriac and the Islamic  
traditions

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**COFFEE AND TEA (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM C)**

10:30-11:00

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**PLENARY LECTURE (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM A)**

Chair: Kyle Smith, University of Toronto

- 11:00-12:00 Adam Becker, New York University  
**The Invention of the *Persian Martyr Acts***

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**LUNCH BREAK**

12:00-1:30 Local restaurants or Pryzbyla Center

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## **5-A: TRACING INFLUENCES (PRYZBYLA 321)**

Chair: Simcha Gross, Yale University

- 1:30-2:00 Kathleen McVey, Princeton Theological Seminary  
Mara bar Serapion's Letter to his Son and Dio  
Chrysostom's Oration 13 'On Exile'
- 2:00-2:30 Emanuel Fiano, Duke University  
The Theological Legacy of Eustathius of Antioch: A  
Case Study in Late Ancient Syrian Christian  
Intellectual Traditions
- 2:30-3:00 Maria Doerfler, Duke Divinity School  
Bishop and Martyr: The curious afterlife of Ambrose  
of Milan in Syriac legal literature
- 3:00-3:30 Rifaat Ebied, The University of Sydney  
Quotations from the Works of St. Cyril of Alexandria  
in Peter of Callinicus's magnum opus, 'Contra  
Damianum'

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## **5-B: THE SYRIAC BIBLE AND ITS EXEGESIS (PRYZBYLA 323)**

Chair: Stephen D. Ryan, Dominican House of Studies

- 1:30-2:00 George Kiraz, Beth Mardutho: The Syriac Institute  
The Antioch Bible Project: Status Report
- 2:00-2:30 Craig Morrison, Pontifical Biblical Institute  
Did the Dying Jacob in Gen 49:33 Gather His Feet  
into His Bed (MT) or Stretch Them Out (Peshitta)?  
An Insight into the Peshitta as a Translation
- 2:30-3:00 Yakir Paz, Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Re-Dividing the World: Deut. 32:8 and the Apostolic  
Lottery in the Apocryphal Acts
- 3:00-3:30 Lucas Van Rompay, Duke University  
Lazarus of Beth Qandasa's Commentary on the  
Gospel of John (9th cent.) and the reception of early  
Syriac tradition

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## **5-C: HAGIOGRAPHY (PRYZBYLA 327)**

Chair: Jeanne-Nicole Saint-Laurent, Marquette University

- 1:30-2:00 Sharbel Iskandar Bcheiry, Lutheran School of Theology  
The unpublished Discourse on the life of Severus of Antioch, Composed by the Syriac Orthodox Patriarch, Kyriakos of Takrit (793-817)
- 2:00-2:30 Todd Godwin, The Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies  
The Syriac and Arabic Translations of the Vita Mar Abae and the Conversion of the Hephthalite Huns to East Syrian Christianity in 549
- 2:30-3:00 Reyhan Durmaz, Brown University  
Saints, stories and sanctity between Christianity and Islam: Conversion of Najrān to Christianity in the Sīra of Muḥammad
- 3:00-3:30 Abdo Badwi, Université Saint Esprit of Kaslik, Lebanon  
The Iconographic Hagiology of the Syriac Maronite Church

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## **COFFEE AND TEA (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM C)**

3:30-4:00

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## **6-A: SASANIAN PERSIA (PRYZBYLA 321)**

Chair: Lucas Van Rompay, Duke University

- 4:00-4:30 Simcha Gross, Yale University  
The Sources of the History of ‘Abdā damšīhā, and the Creation of the Persian Martyr Acts
- 4:30-5:00 Tom Schmidt, Yale University  
Shapur II and the Persecution of Christians: Evidence from non-Christian Sources
- 5:00-5:30 Kyle Smith, University of Toronto  
Was There ‘Religion’ in Sasanian Persia?

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**6-B: SYRIAC PEDAGOGY WORKSHOP (PRYZBYLA 323)**

4:00-5:30

Chair: Ute Possekkel, Harvard Divinity School

J. F. Coakley, School of Oriental and African Studies,  
University of London

Some reflections on the Centenary of Robinson's  
*Paradigms and Exercises*

Kristian Heal, Brigham Young University  
Teaching Syriac in One Semester

Ute Possekkel, Harvard Divinity School

Learning Language in Context: Integrating the Study  
of Syriac with History

Monica Blanchard, The Catholic University of America  
Teaching Syriac in the Context of Christian Near  
Eastern Studies

George Kiraz, Beth Mardutho: The Syriac Institute  
Teaching Syriac in Three Weeks: Navigating between  
a Traditional Approach and Immersion

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**6-C: ENCOUNTERING ISLAM (PRYZBYLA 327)**

Chair: Wilhelmus Valkenberg, The Catholic University of America

4:00-4:30 Lev Weitz, The Catholic University of America  
Shaping Christian Law in Abbasid Iraq

4:30-5:00 Coleman Connelly, Harvard University  
Translation as Tampering: Accusations of Tahřif  
Against Christian Graeco-Arabic Translators

5:00-5:30 Michael Lessman, The Catholic University of America  
The Treatise on Unity of Yahya ibn 'Adi: Syrian  
Christian influences on Arabic philosophy

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**BETH MARDUTHO RECEPTION (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM C)**

5:30-6:00

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**DINNER (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM B)**

6:00-7:30

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**FORUM ON CREATING A SYRIAC CULTURAL ARCHIVE  
(PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM A)**

7:30-9:00

Organized by Robin Darling Young, The Catholic University of  
America

*see separate handout*



# Wednesday, June 24

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## COFFEE AND TEA (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM C)

8:30-9:00

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## 7-A: SYRIAC STUDIES AND DIGITAL RESEARCH (PRYZBYLA 321)

Chair: Joel Kalvesmaki, Dumbarton Oaks

9:00-9:30 Thomas A. Carlson, Oklahoma State University  
Syriac in the Polyglot Medieval Middle East: Digital Tools and the Dissemination of Scholarship Across Linguistic Boundaries

9:30-10:00 David A. Michelson, Vanderbilt University  
'To All Scribes Who May in the Future Encounter this Book...' Digital Strategies for a Distant Reading of Syriac Literature

10:00-10:30 Jeanne-Nicole Saint-Laurent, Marquette University  
In Search of the Children of Awgin: Using Syriaca.org to Map the Relationships of Saints and Their Cults in Syriac Christianity

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## 7-B: CONFRONTING ISLAM (PRYZBYLA 323)

Chair: Alessandro Mengozzi, Università degli Studi di Torino

9:00-9:30 James Prather, Abilene Christian University  
The Emergence of the Eastern Christian Apocalyptic Genre: Theologies of Resistance in the Apocalypse of Pseudo Methodius

9:30-10:00 Ryann Craig, The Catholic University of America  
Jacob of Edessa's Response to Islam: The Eucharist and Confessional Identity

10:00-10:30 Abdul Massih Saadi, Baylor University  
A 9th-century Syriac Exegete and Apologist: Moshe Bar Kepha's Commentary on Luke

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**7-C: APHRAHAṬ AND EPHREM (PRYZBYLA 327)**

Chair: Kathleen McVey, Princeton Theological Seminary

9:00-9:30 James Walters, Princeton Theological Seminary  
Re-Considering the Compositional Unity of  
Aphrahat's Demonstrations

9:30-10:00 Mark Mourachian, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary  
Human Freedom in Ephrem's Outsider Polemics: The  
Self-Evidential Character of Freewill and an  
Ontology of Evil in the Broader Context of Ephrem's  
Theology

10:00-10:30 Robert Morehouse, Saint Leo University  
A Devil in Snake's Clothing: Satan Hidden in Plain  
Sight in Ephraem of Nisibis

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**COFFEE AND TEA (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM C)**

10:30-11:00

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**PLENARY LECTURE (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM A)**

Chair: Robin Darling Young, The Catholic University of America

11:00-12:00 Joseph Amar, University of Notre Dame  
**Making Ephrem One of Us**

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**BUSINESS MEETING (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM A)**

12:00-12:30



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**LOCAL STEERING COMMITTEE:**

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