

ERICA FERG

CURRICULUM VITAE

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2023—**Associate Professor** (tenured), Religious Studies department, Regis University. Program Director for MA specialization in Religious Studies and Program Coordinator for post-traditional Religious Studies, History, and Humanities courses.
- 2018 Assistant Professor, Regis University. Regis College, School for Professional Advancement (SPA). Teach courses in religious history and humanities for SPA undergraduate and graduate programs (classroom and online). Program Coordinator and MA Advisor for Religious Studies.
- 2017 Affiliate Faculty, MA Programs, Iliff School of Theology, Denver, CO. Created and taught two graduate-level courses.
- 2016 Lecturer, Religious Studies, Department of Philosophy, University of Colorado at Denver; January 2016-June 2018. Nine semester-length classroom classes taught. Created three classroom courses.
- 2008 Affiliate Faculty, Religion and Culture, Department of Liberal Arts, Regis University, Denver, CO. Lead Faculty for History and Humanities; 2008-2016. Created two classroom courses and five online courses. Supervised six Graduate Independent Study courses and supervised one M.A. thesis as primary advisor (student defended May 2015).

Taught 97 total university courses since 2008.

TEACHING AREAS

Islam; Qur'ān; Western/'Abrahamic' Religious Traditions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam); Ancient Near East; Mediterranean Religious History; Middle Eastern Religious History; Modern Middle East; International Studies; Greek and Roman Religions; Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East; Early Christianities and the Development of the New Testament; World Religions; Comparative Religion; Introduction to Religious Studies; Religious Studies Theories and Methods; World Humanities I; World Humanities II; Philosophy of Religion; Islamic Philosophy, Qur'ānic Ethics; Religion and the Environment. Graduate- and undergraduate-level classes. Classroom and online asynchronous.

EDUCATION

- 2016 Ph.D., the Study of Religion, University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology
Specialization: Islamic Studies and Eastern Mediterranean Religious History
Dissertation title: *Continuity and Contradistinction: A Geography of Religion Study of the Ancient Near Eastern Storm-God Baal-Hadad, Jewish Elijah, Christian St. George, and Muslim al-Khidr in the Eastern Mediterranean* (defended with distinction on 10-01-15)
- 2008 M.A., Religious Studies, University of Denver. Thesis: Saint Veneration in Islam: Iran
- 2004 B.A., International Studies, University of Colorado at Denver

LANGUAGES

Persian: high proficiency, non-native
Arabic: functional/conversant, MSA and Levantine dialect
French: functional/conversant
Spanish: basic speaking and reading
Russian: basic speaking and reading
Maltese: rudimentary speaking and reading
Latin: (classical and medieval): functional reading
Greek: (Koine and Byzantine): basic reading
Syriac: basic reading

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PUBLICATIONS

My research focus is religious history in and around the Mediterranean. My current research topics include the history of religion, geography, history of science, philosophy, and archeoastronomy. All of my work is undergirded by linguistic research.

BOOKS

2020 *Geography, Religion, Gods, and Saints in the Eastern Mediterranean*. Studies in the History of the Ancient Near East Series. New York: Routledge, 2020. (Paperback January 2022). Review (04/2021) by N. Doumanis in the *Journal of Religious History*.

BOOK CHAPTERS

2025 “Mediterranean Vessels: Fibonacci, Copernicus, and the Role of Arabic Manuscripts in the Transmission of Scientific Knowledge” in *Coexistence in Medieval Christian and Muslim Societies: Politics, Trade and Culture in Anatolia and Iberia*. Amsterdam University Press (forthcoming).

ARTICLES

2023 With Hall, Bryan. “Orthodoxy, Orthopraxy, and Locke’s Arguments for Toleration.” *Locke Studies* 22 (February):1-26.
<https://doi.org/10.5206/ls.2022.15111> Joint religious studies-philosophy project.

2020 Ferg, Erica. “Geography and Religion.” *The Bible and Interpretation* (The University of Arizona), March 20, 2020.
<https://bibleinterp.arizona.edu/articles/geography-and-religion> (invited article).

UNDER REVIEW AND IN PROGRESS

BOOKS

2028 (est.) *Starry Nights: A Celestial History of Religion in the Mediterranean*. (In progress).

2026 (est.) With Hall, Bryan. *Benighted Enlightenment: The Enlightenment Roots of Contemporary Religious Intolerance* (In progress).

ARTICLES

2025 (est.) “Seasons of the Sun: The Celestial Calendar and Religious History.” (Under review, *Culture & Cosmos*).

2025 (est.) With Hall, Bryan. “Orthodoxy, Orthopraxy, and a Kantian Moral Religion.” *Proceedings of the 14th International Kant Congress* (de Gruyter, forthcoming).

2025 (est.) With Hall, Bryan. “Orthodoxy, Orthopraxy, and a Hobbesian Civil Religion.” (Under review).

2025 (est.) “Sun, Moon, and Qur’an: Arabic Solar Months, Jewish Calendar Traditions, and the Making of an Islamic Lunar Calendar.” (In progress).

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REVIEWER, RELIGIOUS HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY OF RELIGION

- 2025 Book Review for the *Journal of Religious History*: Cook, Michael. *A History of the Muslim World: From its Origins to the Dawn of Modernity*. Princeton University Press, 2024. (Under review.)
- 2025 Book Review for *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture*: Badamo, Heather. *Saint George Between Empires: Image and Encounter in the Medieval East*. Penn State University Press, 2023. (Under review.)
- 2025 Book Review for *Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education*: Bowen, José Antonio and Watson, Edward C. *Teaching with AI: A Practical Guide to a New Era of Human Learning*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2024. (Under review.)
- 2023—The Austrian Science Fund. Proposal reviewer for geography and religion research projects.

PAPERS, ACADEMIC CONFERENCES, LECTURES, AWARDS, MEDIA, REVIEWS

CONFERENCES AND PAPERS

- 2024 (Sep.) University of Bonn, Germany, 14th International Kant Congress, “Orthodoxy, Orthopraxy, and a Achieving a Kantian Moral Religion.” Co-authored with Bryan Hall.
- 2024 (Sep.) University of Colorado at Denver, Philosophy Department Memorial Lecture, “Orthodoxy, Orthopraxy, and a Achieving a Kantian Moral Religion.”
- 2024 (Jul-Aug.) Universitas Islam Negeri (UIN) Raden Intan, Bandar Lampung, Indonesia. Five religious studies conference presentations.
- 2024 (May) the Ionian University of Corfu, Greece. "Seasons of the Sun: The Celestial Calendar and Religious History." Twelfth International Conference on The Inspiration of Astronomical Phenomena (INSAP XII) conference. May 20-24.
- 2024 (Apr.) Keynote Address: Romanian Academy, International Conference “Kant 300” of the Institute of Philosophy in Bucharest, Romania. “Orthodoxy, Orthopraxy, and Achieving a Kantian Moral Religion.” Co-authored with Bryan Hall. April 22-26.
- 2024 (Mar.) Universidad de Navarra, Navarre, Spain. "The Impossibility of Hobbesian Christian Sovereignty." Co-authored with Bryan Hall, at The Social Ontology of Sovereignty: Timeless and Timely Perspectives. Mar. 13-15.
- 2024 (Jan.) “Orthodoxy, Orthopraxy, and a Hobbesian Civil Religion.” Co-authored with Bryan Hall. Joint religious studies-philosophy project. 4th Annual IAFOR International Conference on Arts and Humanities in Honolulu, Hawaii, Jan. 03-07.
- 2023 (May) "Turning Kant Inside-Out: Belief, Practice, and Achieving a Moral Religion.” Co-authored with Bryan Hall. Joint religious studies-philosophy project. 6th Annual Workshop of The Contemporary Kantian Philosophy Project: "Kant and the Primacy of Sensibility," Washington University in St Louis, MO.
- 2023 (Apr.) “Orthodoxy, Orthopraxy, and Kantian Moral Religion,” co-authored with Bryan Hall, Regis University School for Professional Advancement Faculty Research Workshop.
- 2023 (Mar.) “Seasons of the Sun: Cross-Quarter-Point Celestial Calendar Holidays and Religious History,” American Academy of Religion and the Religion and Bible Society of the Rocky Mountain Great Plains Regional Meeting.
- 2023 (Jan.) “Cross-Quarter-Point Celestial Calendar Holidays and Religious History,” Regis University School for Professional Advancement Faculty Research Workshop.
- 2022 (October) “The Role of Arabic Manuscripts in Transmitting Scientific Knowledge, and the Role of the Mediterranean in the Transmission of Arabic Manuscripts,” Mediterranean Studies Fall Workshop, University of Colorado Boulder.
- 2022 (May) “The Role of Arabic Manuscripts in Transmitting Scientific Knowledge, and the Role

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- of the Mediterranean in the Transmission of Arabic Manuscripts,” Mediterranean Worlds Workshop: Coexistence in Practice: Politics, Trade and Culture in the Late Medieval Anatolia and Iberia. Fatih Sultan Mehmet Vakıf Üniversitesi, İstanbul, Türkiye.
- 2022 (Jun.) “Orthodoxy, Orthopraxy, and Locke’s Arguments for Toleration,” co-authored with Bryan Hall. International John Locke Conference, American University Bulgaria.
- 2019 (Apr.) Mediterranean Seminar, “How Did Christians and Muslims Perceive That They Shared in a Common Cultural/Religious Endeavor, and How Much Did They Perceive of Their Differences? An Eastern Mediterranean Example,” University of Colorado Boulder
- 2017 (Jan.) “Some Reflections on Religion in the Levant in Light of Shared Religious Practices,” Islamic Studies Symposium, University of Denver
- 2013 (Dec.) “Reexamining the ‘Islamic’ Identity of al-Khiḍr at the Dawn of Islam,” Holy Places in Islam International Scholars Network, University of Edinburgh

INVITED TALKS

- 2025 (Mar. 02, 09) “Starry Nights: A Celestial History of Religion in the Mediterranean.” Trinity Academy, Studying with Scholars Speaker Series, Denver, Colorado
- 2025 (Feb.) Panel Respondent, *Jewish Muslims: How Christians Imagined Islam as the Enemy*, by David Freidenreich. Mediterranean Studies Group, University of Colorado Boulder
- 2025 (Feb.) “Seasons of the Sun: The Celestial Calendar and Religious History.” Regis University Biology Speaker Series, Denver, Colorado
- 2024 (Feb. 15, 22, 29 and Mar. 15) Oshe Lifelong Learning Institute course: “Abrahamic Religions.” Two-hour sessions during February and March, Denver, Colorado
- 2023 (Apr.) “St. George-al-Khiḍr: A Mediterranean Saint for Christians and Muslims,” Christ Church Seminar Speaker Series, Denver, Colorado
- 2022 (Jan.) “Geography and Religion: How Geography Shapes and Influences Religion,” Christ Church Seminar Speaker Series, Denver, Colorado
- 2021 (Aug.) “Islam: Key Texts, Principles, Practices, and Religious Connections,” Kavod Senior Life, Denver, Colorado
- 2021 (Jan.) “*Starry Nights: A Celestial History of Religion*,” book proposal presentation, Regis University, Denver, Colorado
- 2020 (May) “Teaching Online: Basic Principles,” IAU College, Aix-en-Provence, France (Zoom)
- 2019 (Jul.) “Five Surprising Connections Between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam,” IAU College, Barcelona, Spain
- 2019 (Jun.) “Five Surprising Connections Between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam,” IAU College, Aix-en-Provence, France
- 2019 (Mar.) “Agrarian Religion,” Regis University, Interreligious Relations in the Middle East
- 2019 (Mar.) “A Mediterranean Saint for Christians and Muslims: St. George and al-Khiḍr,” Archaeology Society Malta, National Archaeology Museum
- 2019 (Feb.) “Implicit Bias in the Classroom,” Excellence Through Inclusion Workshops, Regis
- 2019 (Feb.) “A Mediterranean Saint for Christians and Muslims: St. George and al-Khiḍr,” University of Colorado Boulder
- 2018 (Jul. and Oct.) “A Mediterranean Saint for Christians and Muslims,” IAU College, Aix-en-Provence, France
- 2018 (Apr.) “St. George-al-Khiḍr: A Common Saint for Christians and Muslims in the Eastern Mediterranean,” Colorado Women’s Interfaith Alliance
- 2017 (Feb.-Mar.) “Understanding the Qur’ān,” six-part Speaker Series, St. Andrew United Methodist Church, Highlands Ranch, Colorado

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- 2015 (Apr.) “Catholicism in the Modern World” Speaker Series, “St. George-al-Khidr: A Common Saint for Christians and Muslims in the Eastern Mediterranean,” Regis University
- 2015 (Feb.) “Women and Gender in Islam,” Iliff School of Theology Women’s Alliance
- 2014 (Apr.) “Islam in the U.S.: Can Religion Change Public Policy?” Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Denver, Colorado
- 2014 (Apr.) “Women and Gender in Islam,” University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- 2023 May 11: Biblical World (podcast). 75-minute interview on subjects from my book *Geography, Religion, Gods, and Saints in the Eastern Mediterranean* (Routledge 2020/22). Available on all podcast platforms.
- 2021 July 02: Drive Time Show at Voice of Islam Radio UK (London). 17-min live interview on the topic “The Role of Islamic Culture and Civilisation in European Development.”

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2021 (Apr.) Recipient of the Regis University School for Professional Advancement (SPA) Leadership Award
- 2019 (May) Recipient of the Regis University Research and Scholarship Council Faculty Research Grant
- 2019 (Apr.) Recipient of the Regis University College of Contemporary Liberal Studies Dean’s Award for Research Excellence

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2022 Istanbul, Türkiye – Hagia Eirene Church (research involving the First Councils of Nicaea and Constantinople, 325-381 CE). Rila, Bulgaria – Rila Monastery (research involving religion in Ottoman borderlands).
- 2021 Southwestern U.S., May-July: Ancestral Puebloan religious and historical sites; specifically, the archaeoastronomical design and significance of sites at Mesa Verde and Chimney Rock (Colorado) and Chaco Culture National Historical Park (CCNHP), (New Mexico); June solstice at Fajada Butte and Casa Rinconada in CCNHP.
- 2020 Morocco, Gibraltar, Spain, and France – ACM-IAU College, France Travel Study Course Lecturer.
- 2019 Malta, July and August: Regis University URSC Grant, “Starry Nights: Phase I.” Research appointment at the National Library of Malta, visitation at the Tas-Silġ archaeological excavation and Ġgantija Temple complex.
- 2019 Malta, March: Mediterranean religious history; research appointment at the National Library of Malta, March equinox at Mnajdra, Haġar Qim Temple complex.
- 2018 France (region of Provence) and Malta, June-July and October: Mediterranean religious-historical sites and research appointment at the National Library of Malta.
- 2018 Morocco, Gibraltar, Spain, and France – IAU College, France Travel Study Course Lecturer.
- 2013 Lebanon, funded dissertation research, IRB-approved project: modern significance of four regional religious figures, including interviews and visits to shrines, churches, mosques, grottoes, monasteries, and related ancient sites.
- 2012 Spain, UK: study of Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea travel; St. George as a wider Mediterranean phenomenon; research appointment at the British Library to study the c. 600 C.E. Syriac manuscript, *The Acts of St. George*.

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- 2009 Spain: study of cities and sites important in Andalusía during the era of Islamic Spain.
2004 Jordan, Lebanon, Cyprus, Israel, Palestine: sponsored by the Korbel Graduate School of International Studies, University of Denver, on the subject of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS

- 2023-2024 Colorado-Wyoming Network of Women Leaders (CWNWL) Academic Management Institute (AMI). (Member of the 54th cohort.) Six sessions in Vail, Laramie, WY, and Denver, Colorado
2020 (May) Introduction to the Archive of the Crown of Aragon (Documents in Latin to ca. 1350) Summer Skills Seminar, The Mediterranean Seminar and the CU Mediterranean Studies Group at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Archive in Barcelona, Spain
2019— (Ongoing) Mediterranean Seminar, University of Colorado Boulder and UC Santa Barbara
2018— (Ongoing) American College of the Mediterranean-Institute for American Universities (ACM-IAU), Aix-en-Provence, France
2018-20 Research Affiliate, University of Denver Center for Middle East Studies
2018 Summer Resident Fellow, IAU College, Aix-en-Provence, France
2013-15 Holy Places in Islam International Scholars Network, University of Edinburgh
2013 Research Affiliate, American University of Beirut, Lebanon
2013 Affiliate, Near East School of Theology, Beirut, Lebanon

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Mediterranean Seminar Group
International Qur'anic Studies Association (IQSA)
American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR)
American Academy of Religion (AAR)