

# **Mattias P. Gassman**

January 2026

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University of Florida  
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## **ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

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Assistant Professor	2024 –
University of Florida, Hamilton School for Classical and Civic Education	
Research Fellow	2023 – 2024
University of St Andrews, St Mary's College	
British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow	2019 – 2023
University of Oxford, Faculty of Classics	
Junior Research Fellow, Wolfson College	

## **EDUCATION**

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PhD in Classics	2017
University of Cambridge	
MPhil in Late Antique and Byzantine Studies	2014
University of Oxford, Distinction	
MA in Classical and Near Eastern Studies	2011
University of Minnesota	
BA in Interdisciplinary Studies (Classical Studies)	2008
BS in Biophysics, German, minor in History	
Iowa State University, <i>Summa cum laude</i>	

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### **1. Single-authored Books**

2025	<i>Citizens of the Earth: Pagans and Their Gods in Augustine's North Africa.</i> Oxford Studies in Late Antiquity. New York: Oxford University Press.
2020	<i>Worshippers of the Gods: Debating Paganism in the Fourth-Century Roman West.</i> Oxford Studies in Late Antiquity. New York: Oxford University Press.
	2022 First Book Award, Classical Association of the Middle West and South 2022 Best First Book Prize, North American Patristics Society

Reviewed in *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, *The Journal of Roman Studies*, *Greece & Rome*, *Rhea Classical Reviews*, *Annali di storia dell'esegesi*, *ARYS*, *Arctos*, and *Choice*

## 2. Co-authored books

2025 Brendan Wolfe, Mattias Gassman, and Oliver Langworthy, *Arianism Revisited: An Introduction to Non-Nicene Theologies*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press.

## 3. Single-authored articles and chapters (\* = invited)

(2026) “The Scholar and the Sunbather: Reassessing the Narrator of C.S. Lewis’s ‘The Shoddy Lands,’” *Journal of Inklings Studies*

2026 \*“Christianisation and Conversion.” In *Brill’s Companion to Roman Prosopography*, edited by Marietta Horster, Richard Flower, Frédéric Hurlet, and Ralph Mathisen, 497–511. Brill’s Companions to Classical Studies. Leiden: Brill.

2025 “Semi-pagans? Some Mutations of Non-Christian Thought in Late Antiquity,” *Studies in Late Antiquity* 9/1: 85–116. doi: 10.1525/sla.2025.9.1.85

2024 “The Chronology of the Final Books of *City of God*: Data and Hypotheses,” *Revue bénédictine* 134/2: 193–218. doi: 10.1484/J.RB.5.143658

2024 “A Consul for a Heavenly Rome: Reclaiming Aristocratic Virtue in Prudentius, *Peristephanon* 2,” *Hermes* 152/1: 100–13. doi: 10.25162/hermes-2024-0007

2024 “The Downfall of Caelestis: Salvian of Marseille and the End of Public cult in Roman Carthage,” *Historia: Zeitschrift für Alte Geschichte* 73/1: 103–125. doi: 10.25162/historia-2024-0005

2023 “Converting after Constantine: Firmicus Maternus and the Scriptures,” *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 31/4: 459–92. doi: 10.1353/earl.2023.a915031

2023 “The Composition of *De consensu euangelistarum* 1 and the Development of Augustine’s Arguments on Paganism,” *Augustinian Studies* 54/2: 157–75. doi: 10.5840/augstudies202312580

2022 \*“Christianity and Graeco-Roman Paganism,” *St Andrews Encyclopaedia of Theology* (20,000-word article for open-access, peer-reviewed reference work). [www.saet.ac.uk/Christianity/ChristianityandGraecoRomanPaganism](http://www.saet.ac.uk/Christianity/ChristianityandGraecoRomanPaganism)

2022 “A Late Antique Preacher in Action: Augustine, *Ep. 29*,” *Journal of Late Antiquity* 15/1, 130–59. doi: 10.1353/jla.2022.0004

2021 “Arnobius’ Scythians and the Dating of *Aduersus nationes*,” *The Journal of Theological Studies* 72/2: 832–42. doi: 10.1093/jts/flab103

2021 “An Afterlife of a Scholarly Epic: Frazer’s *Golden Bough* and Lewis’s Argument from Myth,” *Journal of Inklings Studies* 11/2: 133–152. doi: 10.3366/ink.2021.0111

2021 “An Ancient Account of Pagan Origins: Making Sense of Filastrius, *Diuersarum hereseon liber* 111,” *Revue d’études augustiniennes et patristiques* 67: 83–105. doi: 10.1484/J.REA.5.128425

2021 “Directing the Eye of the Soul: Form and Function in an Ancient Scenic Monologue (Cyprian, *Ad Donatum*),” *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 29/3: 371–96. doi: 10.1353/earl.2021.0024

2021 “On an Alleged *Senatus Consultum* against the Christians,” *Vigiliae Christianae* 75/5: 548–55. doi: 10.1163/15700720-bja10033

2021 “The Ancient Readers of Augustine’s *City of God*,” *Augustinian Studies* 52/1: 1–18. doi: 10.5840/augstudies20212461

2020 “A Feast in Carthage: Testing the Limits of ‘Secularity’ in Late Antiquity,” *The Journal of Roman Studies* 110: 199–219. doi: 10.1017/S0075435820001409

2019 “Cyprian’s Early Career in the Church of Carthage,” *The Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 70/1: 1–17. doi: 10.1017/S0022046917002780

2018 “Debating Traditional Religion in Late Fourth-Century Roman Africa,” *Journal of Late Antiquity* 11/1: 83–110. doi: 10.1353/jla.2018.0013

2017 “The Roman Kings in Orosius’ *Historiae Adversum Paganos*,” *Classical Quarterly* 67/2: 617–30. doi: 10.1017/S0009838817000702

2017 “The Conversion of Cyprian’s Rhetoric? Towards a New Reading of *Ad Donatum*,” *Studia Patristica* 94: 247–57

2017 “*Et Deus et Homo*: The Soteriology of Lactantius,” *Studia Patristica* 80: 35–41

2016 “Eschatology and Politics in Cyril of Jerusalem’s *Epistle to Constantius*,” *Vigiliae Christianae* 70/2: 119–33. doi: 10.1163/15700720-12341230

#### *In progress*

“Martianus Capella and Augustine: Did One Read the Other?” in Geoffrey D. Dunn and Edwina Murphy (eds.), *Pagan-Christian Interaction in Late Antique North Africa* (manuscript accepted for book still in progress)

\*“Political Theology from Constantine I to Theodosius II,” in Lewis Ayres and Matthew Crawford, *The Cambridge History of Early Christian Theology* (manuscript accepted for book still in progress)

#### **4. Co-authored articles and chapters**

2024 Mattias Gassman and Brendan Wolfe, “‘A Thing Like God’: Re-reading Gothic *Philippians 2.6–8*,” *New Testament Studies* 70/4: 531–545. doi: 10.1017/S0028688524000353 (open access)

#### **5. Online resources (open-access)**

2023 Survey of online resources, general introduction, and annotated translations of authorial *vita* and *Tractate 3* (on the Latin Fathers) from the *De processione Spiritus Sancti a solo Patre* of Adam Zoernikav (d. 1693/4), for the St Andrews Zoernikav Project, <https://zoernikav.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/>

#### **6. Book reviews (\* = invited)**

(2026) \*Caroline Johnson Hodge, *The God of This House: Christian Domestic Cult Before Constantine* (University Park: Penn State University Press, 2025). *Church History*

2025 \*Robin Douglas and Francis Young, *Paganism Persisting: A History of European Paganisms since Antiquity* (Exeter: Exeter University Press, 2024), *International Journal of the Classical Tradition* 32: 111–13. doi:10.1007/s12138-024-00689-7

2023 \*David G. Hunter and Jonathan P. Yates (eds.), *Augustine and Tradition: Influences, Contexts, Legacy* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2021), *Theologische Literaturzeitung* 148/3: 194–6

2022 \*“Violence and the Emperors in Lactantius,” review of Gianna Zipp, *Gewalt in Laktanz’ ‘De mortibus persecutorum’* (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2021), *Histos* 16: ix–xiv. <https://histos.org/documents/2022RR03GassmanonZipp.pdf>

2022 \*J. Warren Smith, *Ambrose, Augustine, and the Pursuit of Greatness* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020), *The Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 73: 128–30. doi:10.1017/S0022046921002025

2021 \*Young Richard Kim (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to the Council of Nicaea* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021), *Church History* 90: 647–9. doi:10.1017/S0009640721002213

2021 \*D.H. Williams, *Defending and Defining the Faith: An Introduction to Early Christian Apologetic Literature* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020), *Church History* 90: 400–1. doi:10.1017/S0009640721001505

2021 \*Gerlinde Huber-Rebenich and Stefan Rebenich (eds.), *Interreligiöse Konflikte im 4. und 5. Jahrhundert: Julian “Contra Galilaeos” – Kyrill “Contra Iulianum”* (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2020), *The Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 72: 144–6. doi:10.1017/S0022046920001931

2019 \*Benjamin Safranski, *St. Cyprian of Carthage and the College of Bishops* (New York: Lexington Books/Fortress Academic, 2018), *The Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 70: 587–8. doi:10.1017/S0022046919001015

2017 Blandine Colot, *Lactance: penser la conversion de Rome au temps de Constantin* (Florence: Leo S. Olschki, 2016), *The Journal of Roman Studies* 107: 452–3. doi: 10.1017/S0075435817000089

## **SELECTED AWARDS AND HONORS**

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2019–22 British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship (extended to 2023)

2014–17 Cambridge International Trust Scholarship, University of Cambridge

2012–14 Clarendon Scholarship, University of Oxford

2012–14 Ertegun Scholarship, University of Oxford (declined)

2012 Study Scholarship, Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (declined)

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE (POST-DOCTORATE)**

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### **University of Florida**

Great Books of the Ancient World (fall 2025. Discussion-based second-year core class for Great Books and Ideas major)

Immortality (fall 2024 – spring 2026, taught four times. Discussion-based, topical general education course in university-wide “Quest” humanities curriculum).

## University of Oxford

Conversion of Augustine (sole instructor, 2021–22, 2020–21; tutor, 2022–23, 2019–20. Final-year undergraduate seminar including Latin classes, historical lectures, and tutorials discussing research essays with students individually and in pairs)

The Greek City in the Roman World from Dio Chrysostom to John Chrysostom (joint-instructor, fall 2022. Final-year undergraduate seminar including small-group history classes and tutorials discussing students' research essays)

Approaching Christianization in the Roman World (summer 2022. History lecture series supporting courses on late antiquity and Augustine)

Roman Religion in the Later Empire (spring 2020. Classics lecture series supporting courses on Augustine and Greco-Roman religions)

## PRESENTATIONS

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### 1. Selected seminars

2025      “*Psogos protreptikos*: Cyprian’s invective against Demetrianus,” online seminar on The Art of Violence: Re-approaching Invective in Greek and Latin Literature, Nicolaus Copernicus University (Toruń, Poland, June 10).

2023      “Against ‘identity’: thinking about paganism with Augustine,” Oxford Patristics Seminar (Oxford, March 7)

2022      “Before *City of God*: Roman religion in Augustine’s early polemics,” Rethinking Apologetic and Identity in the Late Roman Empire workshop (Oxford, April 28)

2022      “Between pagan and Christian: thinking through religious difference and religious change with Augustine,” Late Roman Seminar, University of Oxford (Oxford, February 3)

2022      “Re-thinking the Gods: Why Augustine Used Varro in *City of God* 6–7,” Re-thinking Roman Religions seminar, Institute of Classical Studies (London, January 20)

2021      “The consul of heavenly Rome: reclaiming aristocratic virtue in Prudentius, *Peristephanon* 2,” Seminar on the Works of Prudentius, University of Oxford (Oxford, June 2)

2021      “Augustine on Religion,” Systematic & Historical Theology Seminar, University of St Andrews (St Andrews, March 17)

2021      “Salvian, ‘Quodvultdeus,’ and the Cult of Caelestis in Roman and Vandalic Carthage,” Late Roman Seminar, University of Oxford (Oxford, January 28)

### 2. Selected conference papers

(2026)      “Exploring an Arian Handbook: The Homoian *Contra Paganos* and the Contents of *Codex Veronensis* LI (49),” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting (Chicago, May 21–23)

(2026) “Preaching Jupiter: Lay Piety and Anti-Pagan Erudition in Late Antique Sermons,” New College Conference on Medieval and Renaissance Studies (Sarasota, FL, March 5–7)

2025 “Homoians and Heteroousians: charting the ‘Arian’-Eunomian divide in the fifth century,” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting (Chicago, May 22–24)

2024 “The absent Euhemerus: Lactantius and City of God XVIII,” 19<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Patristic Studies (Oxford, August 5–9)

2024 “In ‘Arian’ eyes: non-Nicene perspectives on Homoian history,” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting (Chicago, May 23–25)

2023 “Augustine’s incomplete euhemerism: the gods in City of God 18,” Society for Classical Studies 153<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting (New Orleans, January 7)

2022 “‘Who is this God?’ Framing the history of religions in *De consensu euangelistarum* 1,” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting (Chicago, May 26–28)

2022 “Semi-pagans? Some mutations of belief in late antiquity,” SCS 152<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting (San Francisco, January 5–8)

2021 “Ambivalence or Ambiguity? Revisiting the problem of ‘pagans,’” Ambiguity and Ambivalence in Late Antiquity (online, September 9–10, 16–17)

2021 “Salvian and the End of Public Paganism in Late Antique Carthage,” International Mediaeval Congress (online, July 5–9)

2021 “Identifying Pagans in Late Antiquity: The Example of Augustine,” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting (online, May 24–29)

2021 “Questioning Divination: The Young Augustine and Friends,” Classical Association of the Middle West and South 117<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting (online, April 7–10)

2021 “The *libri pontificales* at the end of paganism,” SCS 151<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting (online, January 5–10)

## **SERVICE AND OUTREACH**

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### **Professional service**

Session chair, “Augustine and Empire,” 19<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Patristic Studies (Oxford, August 7, 2024)

Organizer (with Jeremiah Coogan), Rethinking Apologetic and Identity in the Late Roman Empire workshop (Oxford, April 28, 2022)

Respondent, OIKOS Oxford-Munich-Würzburg graduate conference (March 24, 2022)

Session moderator, “Augustine: Section III,” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting (online, May 25, 2021)

Peer reviewer for Oxford University Press and for *The Journal of Roman Studies*, *Theological Studies*, *Religion, St Andrews Encyclopaedia of Theology*, *Journal of the Oxford Graduate Theological Society*, *Mnemosyne*, and *Cambridge Classical Journal*

### **Institutional service (Hamilton School for Classical and Civic Education, Florida)**

Awards committee (2025–2026)

Christian Thought and Culture minor *ad hoc* committee (2025)

Jewish Thought committee (Fall 2024)

### **Institutional service (Oxford)**

Co-convenor, Late Roman Seminar, Oxford, 2020–22 (five terms; eight speakers per term)

Examination marker for “Conversion of Augustine” (Ancient History), 2021, 2022, “St. Augustine and the Last Days of Rome” (Classical Archaeology and Ancient History), 2021, Master’s theses in Greek and Latin literature, 2022

Co-organizer, Augustine Reading Group, Oxford, 2020–21

### **Public-facing/generalist talks**

2024	“The Ancient Gods and Who Killed Them,” in the series <i>Where Did I Get My Ethics?</i> , Blue Ridge Center (Charlottesville, VA, October 23, invited)
2024	“St. Augustine and Roman Warfare,” Barbarism and Religion: Warfare and Christianity in the Roman Empire, Hillsdale College Center for Military History and Strategy (Hillsdale, MI, August 31, invited)
2023	“Life in the World: Augustine, the <i>Saeculum</i> , and the Ordinary Christian,” Canterbury Institute (Oxford, January 25)
2020	“To Be Free of the Liberal Arts? Augustine on Education and Career,” Davenant Institute UK Convivium (Oxford, January 25)

### **LANGUAGES**

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German (speaking, reading, writing), Latin, Ancient Greek, French, Italian (reading), Akkadian, Syriac, Coptic (basic reading)