

Mattias P. Gassman

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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

EDUCATION

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

PUBLICATIONS

1. Single-authored Books

2025 *Citizens of the Earth: Pagans and Their Gods in Augustine's North Africa*.
Oxford Studies in Late Antiquity. New York: Oxford University Press.

2020 *Worshippers of the Gods: Debating Paganism in the Fourth-Century Roman West*. 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
- 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 *Adversus 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

- 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)

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

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,” 19th 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 153rd 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 152nd 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 117th Annual Meeting (online, April 7–10)
- 2021 “The *libri pontificales* at the end of paganism,” SCS 151st Annual Meeting (online, January 5–10)

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

Professional service

Session chair, “Augustine and Empire,” 19th 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 Where Did I Get My Ethics?, 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 *Saeculum*, 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

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