

Peter Anthony Mena
Assistant Professor of Theology and Religious Studies
University of San Diego
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EDUCATION

Drew University	2014
Ph.D., Graduate Division of Religion, History of Christianity Graduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies Dissertation: "Borderlands/ <i>La Frontera</i> of the Late Ancient Egyptian Desert: Space, Identity, and the Ascetic Imagination" Advisor: Virginia Burrus	
Union Theological Seminary	2007
M.A., History of Christianity	
St. Edward's University	2005
M.A., Liberal Arts	
University of Texas, Austin	2002
B.A., History with a minor in Religious Studies	

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of San Diego	2017-present
Assistant Professor of Theology and Religious Studies	
Phillips Theological Seminary	2015-2017
Assistant Professor of the History of Christianity	
<i>Sample of Courses taught or able to teach: Orthodoxy and Heresy in Late Antiquity; Earliest Christianities; Women and Gender in Early Christianity; Martyrs and Saints in the Early Church; Imag(in)ing God: Images, Icons, and Idols in Early Christianity</i>	
Occidental College, Department of Religious Studies	2014-2015
Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow	
<i>Sample of Courses taught: Women, Gender, and Christianity in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages, Chican@ Religious Identities, Religious Violence from Antiquity to the First Crusades, Mapping Religious Identities: Race, Place, and Empire, and History of Christianity</i>	

PUBLICATIONS

“Scenting Saintliness: The Ailing Body, Chicana Feminism, and Communal Identity in Ancient Christianity,” in *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, **First Place Winner of the Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza New Scholars Awards**, (Forthcoming; Fall 2017).

“Anzaldúa’s Animal Abyss: *Mestizaje* and the Late Ancient Imagination” co-authored with An Yountae, *Divinanimality: Animal Theory, Creaturely Theology*, Fordham University Press: New York, NY, 2014.

“Insatiable Appetites: Epiphanius of Salamis and the Making of the Heretical Villain.” *Studia Patristica* 67 (2013): 257-264.

BOOK REVIEWS

Kathleen T. Talvacchia, Michael F. Pettinger, and Mark Larrimore, eds., *Queer Christianities: Lived Religion in Transgressive Forms*. *Church History* (forthcoming, December, 2016).

INVITED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Beyond Relevance: Teaching and Researching Early Christianity in the Present Moment,” panelist, North American Patristics Society, May 2017.

“Feminism is for Everybody: Strategizing Pedagogy and Practice,” panelist, Society of Biblical Literature (sponsored by the Student Advisory Board), November 2016.

“Queer Theory as Source & Horizon for Latin@ Catholic Religious Reflection,” moderator/discussant, Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States, June 2014.

INVITED TALKS

“Orthodoxy and Heresy in the Early Church.” Invited lecture at Harvard Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Tulsa, Oklahoma, March 2017.

“Saintliness and Suffering.” Invited lecture for Melinda McGarrah Sharp’s Pastoral Theology course, “Caring in Depth: Death and Dying,” Spring 2016.

“Scenting Saintliness: Early Christian Studies and its Relevance for Contemporary Theological Education.” Invited talk for the Board of Trustees and guests at Phillips Theological Seminary, Fall 2015.

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

“Letters from Cappadocia,” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL: May 2017.

“Borderlands/*La Frontera* of the Ancient Desert: Reading Space in Christian Hagiography,” Latina/o Studies Association, Annual Meeting, Pasadena, CA: July 2016.

“The Lives of Letters,” Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA: November 2015.

“Scenting Saintliness: The Ailing Body and the Desert Community in Christian Hagiography,” Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA: November 2014.

“Suffering Saintliness: The Ailing Body and the Desert Community,” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL: May 2014.

“Late Ancient *Mestizaje*: An Anzaldúan Reading of Jerome,” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL: May 2012.

“Late Ancient *Mestizaje*: An Anzaldúan Reading of Jerome,” Eleventh Transdisciplinary Theological Colloquium, Drew University Theological School, Madison, NJ: September 2011.

“Sick Sissies: Epiphanius of Salamis and the Making of the Heretical Villain,” Sixteenth International Conference on Patristics, Oxford University, Oxford, UK: August 2011.

“Epiphanius of Salamis and the Making of the Heretical Villain,” Classical Villains: A Princeton Graduate Colloquium, Princeton, NJ: April 2011.

“Resurrecting Origen in Epiphanius’ *Panarion* 64,” *Orthodox Subjects* session of the North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL: May 2010.

OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

St. Thomas University, Department of Religious Studies
Adjunct Instructor **2013**
Course taught: *Introduction to Religious Studies*

Marymount Manhattan College, Department of Religious Studies
Adjunct Instructor **2008**
Course taught: *Religion and Experience*

Manhattan College, Department of Religious Studies
Adjunct Instructor **2007-2008**
Courses taught: *The Nature and Experience of Religion, Saints: Yesterday and Today*

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant to Professors Virginia Burrus, Professor of Early Church History; Professor J. Terry Todd, Associate Professor of American Religious History; and Professor

Catherine Peyroux, Associate Professor of the History of Christianity
Courses: *Church History 1* and *Church History 2* (2008-2011)

Research Assistant to Professors Virginia Burrus, Professor of Early Church History;
Professor J. Terry Todd, Associate Professor of American Religious History; and Professor
Catherine Peyroux, Associate Professor of the History of Christianity (2008-2011)

AWARDS

- Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza New Scholars Awards, 2017
- Association of Theological Schools Roundtable Seminar for Newly Appointed Faculty, 2016
- Wabash Peer Mentoring Cluster Grant, 2016-2017
- Wabash Early Career Theological School Faculty Workshop Grant, 2016-2017
- Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship at Occidental College, 2014-2015
- Hispanic Theological Initiative Henry Luce Foundation Fellowship, 2013-2014
- Forum for Theological Exploration Leaders in the Academy Workshop, 2013
- Hispanic Theological Initiative Dissertation Fellowship, 2012-2013
- Forum for Theological Exploration North American Doctoral Fellowship, 2011-2012
- Center for Christianities in Global Contexts Henry Luce Fellowship, 2010-2011
- Human Rights Campaign for Religious and Theological Study Fellowship, 2010-2011
- Hispanic Theological Initiative Fellowship, 2010-2011
- Union Theological Seminary Scholarship, 2005-2006, 2006-2007

ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIPS

- Member of the Latina/o Studies Association
- Member of the Society of Biblical Literature
- Member of the American Society of Church History
- Member of the North American Patristics Society
- Member of the American Academy of Religion
- Member of the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

- Presidential appointment to the “Council for Diversity and Inclusion” at Phillips
Theological Seminary, 2015-present
- Board Member, Feminist Studies in Religion, 2015-present
- Steering Committee Member, History of Christianity Section of the American
Academy of Religion, 2014-present
- Board Member, Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States,
2014-present

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Manuscript Reviews

- Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, articles
- The Christian Experience*, Bloomsbury Publishing

LANGUAGES

Modern:

Spanish: Native speaker, reader and writer

French: Read and translate with competence

Ancient:

Latin: Read and translate with competence

Koine Greek: Read and translate with proficiency

Biblical Hebrew: Read and translate with competence

Ge'ez (Classical Ethiopic): Read and translate with competence