

TENNYSON JACOB WELLMAN

professional address:

Department of Religious Studies
Blaustein Humanities Center
270 Mohegan Avenue
Box 5637
New London, CT 06320

home address:

23 Milton Road
Quaker Hill, CT 06375

telephone: 401-338-0956

email: tennyson.jacob.wellman@gmail.com

Education

- 2009 ABD in Religious Studies from University of Pennsylvania (Graduation December 2009)
Field Examinations
 Early Christianities
 Greco-Roman Magic
 Greek Religion
- 2000 M.A. in Religion from Syracuse University
Examinations (with Honors)
 Hesiod's *Theogony*
 19th Century Ghost Dance Movement
 19th and 20th Century Interpretations of Dionysos
Inducted into *Theta Chi Alpha*
- 1997 B.A. in History and English from University of Delaware
Honors Thesis: "Fulbert of Chartres and the Blessed Virgin Mary"
Graduated *Magna Cum Laude*
Inducted into *Phi Beta Kappa*

Areas of Interest

Study of religion, comparative methodologies; Religious identity, ancient and modern; Ancient Greek religions; Orphism and Pythagoreanism; Greek philosophy; Greek and Roman divination; Magic, ancient and modern; Neoplatonism; Demonology, from the ancient eastern Mediterranean through the Early Modern Period; Mythology, comparative and theories of; Popular theologies and cosmologies; Religion and gender; Early Christianities

Professional Experience

- 2008-2010 Visiting Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Connecticut College
 REL 114: New Testament
 REL 203: Christian Traditions
 REL 211: Ancient Greek Religions
 REL 213: Native American Religions
 REL 236: Mysticism
 REL 305: The Supernatural in American Popular Culture
 REL 328: Religion and the Spirit of Politics
- 2008 Instructor, Department of Religious Studies, Connecticut College
 REL 114: New Testament
 REL 205: Hindu Tradition
 REL 206: Buddhist Tradition
- 2001-2007 Instructor, Department of Religious Studies, University of Pennsylvania
 RELS 001: Religions of Asia
 RELS 103: Introduction/Approaches to Mysticism
 RELS 110: Greek and Roman Religions
 RELS 163: Introduction to Hinduism
- 2005-2007 Instructor, College of Liberal Studies, Philadelphia University
 L382: World Philosophies
 L383: Evil and Good
 L675: US Recent Past
 L684: Gender Studies
- 2005-2006 Instructor, Critical Writing Program University of Pennsylvania
 RELS 009: Jewish Christmas Trees: Religion in Contemporary American Life
 RELS 009: Critical Writing: The Fox and the Hedgehog
- 2002-2006 Teaching Assistant, Department of Religious Studies, University of Pennsylvania
 RELS 005: Women and Religion (with Barbara Von Schlegell)
 RELS 006: The Cult Controversy (with Stephen Dunning)
 RELS 113: Western Religious Thinkers: Tupac Shakur (with Michael Eric Dyson)
 RELS 163: Introduction to Hinduism (with Christian Novetzke)
- 2002-2006 Teaching Assistant, Department of Classical Studies, University of Pennsylvania
 CLST 200: Greek and Roman Mythology (with Peter T. Struck)
- 1999-2000 Teaching Assistant, Department of Religion, Syracuse University
 REL 326: Religion and Film (with M. Gail Hamner)
 REL 301: Death and the Afterlife in the Ancient Near East (with James W. Watts)
- 1996 Teaching Assistant, Philosophy Department, University of Delaware
 PHIL 204: World Religions (with Alan Fox)

Professional Writing Tutor, Learning & Advising Center, Philadelphia University (2001-2006)

Grants, Awards, and Honors

Graduate Dissertation Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania (2004-2005)

Publications

Dissertation

(in progress) "Relating *Orphika*: Modern Orphisms, Their Ancient Antecedent Elements and Delimiting Greek Religion." Committee: Robert A. Kraft (University of Pennsylvania), Peter T. Struck (University of Pennsylvania), Fritz Graf (Ohio State University)

Articles in Journals

"Ancient *Musteria* and Modern Mystery Cults." *Religion & Theology* 12.3-4 (2005).

"Making Tradition of an Ass: Zênôn the Alexandrian, a White Donkey, and Conversion to Hellenism." *Religion & Theology* 15.3-4 (2008).

"Rectifying 'Orthodoxy' by Examining the Platonists of Late Antiquity: Strategic Deployments vs. Passive Reflections of Reality." *Religion & Theology* (in press)

Articles in Collected Volumes

"Apocalyptic Concerns and Mariological Tactics in Eleventh-Century France." in The Year 1000: Religious and Social Response to the Turning of the First Millenium. Michael Frassetto, ed. (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2002). Pages 133-163.

"Misdiagnosing Medieval Christianities: Beyond Heresy, Superstition, and Orthodoxy." in Festschrift For Daniel Callahan. Matthew Gabriele and Michael Frassetto, eds. (in press)

Reviews

Green, Peter. From Ikaria to the Stars: Classical Mythification, Ancient and Modern. for *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2004.12.17

King, Karen L. Gospel of Mary of Magdala: Jesus and the First Woman Apostle. for *Theological Studies* 66.3 (2005). Page 713.

Lampe, Peter. From Paul to Valentinus: Christians at Rome in the First Two Centuries. for *Theological Studies* 65.4 (2004). Pages 856-858.

Works in Preparation

"Classification of Persons in Late Antique Platonism." Drafted.

"A Critique of the Modern Concept 'Mythology': *Muthoi, Logoi*, Narratives and Analytical Taxonomies." In Progress.

“Euthyphro’s Comparison: Sokrates’ *Daimonion* and the Intersections of Religious and Political Authority in Classical Athens.” Drafted.

“Overcoming ‘The Transcendent’ as a Critical Category: Bruce Lincoln’s *Theses on Method* and Quotidian Experiences of ‘Spirits.’” In Progress.

“Sosipatra and Other Late Antique Platonist Women.” In Progress.

"Taxonomies of Medieval Christian Variability: Heretical, Pre-Christian, and Superstitious Diagnoses." In Progress (invited article for Daniel F. Callahan *Festschrift*)

“Theophrastos’ *Deisidaimōn* and Bruce Lincoln’s Maximal Religiosity: An *Essai* In Taxonomic Method.” In Progress.

“Turning Myth Into History: Livy’s Anti-Tragedic Account of the *Bacchanalia*.” *Religion & Theology* In Progress.

Proofreading and Reference-Checking

Johnston, Sarah Iles and Peter T. Struck, eds. Mantikē: Studies in Ancient Divination. Brill Academic Publishing, 2005.

Struck, Peter T. The Birth of the Symbol: Ancient Readers at the Limits of Their Texts. Princeton University Press, 2004.

Professional Activities

"Religious Associations in Context" Graduate Student Conference, University of Pennsylvania, October 25, 2003. Co-organizer for graduate student conference on the topic of religious associations in the classical through late antique periods. Organizing committee: Trevor Luke (University of Pennsylvania), Dorian Borbonus (University of Pennsylvania), Tennyson Jacob Wellman (University of Pennsylvania)

Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins 39-41 (2001-2004), Secretary

Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins 43 (2005-2006): “Redescribing the Holy Man,” Co-Chair

Redescribing Graeco-Roman Antiquity Project (University of South Africa), Member, 2004-Ongoing

Service

Qualifications Evaluation Revision Committee for the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Pennsylvania

Journal Review Forum Committee for the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Pennsylvania

Research Fellow, Department of New Testament in the School of Religion and Theology, College of Human Sciences, University of South Africa

Steering Committee, Greco-Roman Religions Section of the Society of Biblical Literature

Papers Delivered

“Cyclical Salvation and Classification of Persons in Neoplatonic Worldviews.” *MAR-AAR 2004 Annual Meeting* in Baltimore, MD

"*Parhedroi*, Fairies and *Spirites*: Ritual Experts' Supernatural Assistants in Late Antiquity and Early Modern Europe." *MAR-AAR 2005 Annual Meeting* in New Brunswick, NJ

“Zenōn the Alexandrian and the White Ass.” *Living in Antiquity* 5-7 October, 2005. Villanova University

“Ancient *Musteria* and Modern Mystery Cults.” *SBL Annual Meeting 2005* in Philadelphia, PA.

“Overcoming ‘The Transcendent’ as a Critical Category: Bruce Lincoln’s *Theses on Method*, Everyday Experiences, and ‘Spirits/Deities.’” *NAASR Annual Meeting 2005* in Philadelphia, PA.

"True Doctrines or Character Flaws? Noumenios’ and Damaskios’ Regulation of Platonic Identities in the Roman Empire.” “*How Intense is the Zeal*”: *Creating Religious Orthodoxy in the Ancient Mediterranean and Near East* 9-10 April, 2006. Brown University

"True Doctrines or Character Flaws? Damaskios and Platonic Identities in the Roman Empire.” *SBL 2006 Annual Meeting* in Washington, DC

“*Paradosis* or *Akoē*? Or, Making a Tradition of an Ass.” *SBL 2007 Annual Meeting* in San Diego, CA

“Turning Myth Into History: Livy’s Anti-Tragedic Account of the *Bacchanalia*.” *SBL 2009 Annual Meeting* in New Orleans, LA

“A Question of Unities: Heresies, Syncretisms, Folk- and Popular Christianities in Modern Scholarly Imaginations.” *Kalamazoo Medieval Studies 2010 Annual Conference* (invited)

Professional Memberships

American Academy of Religions / Society of Biblical Literature (since 1998)

American Philological Association (since 2002)

North American Association for the Study of Religion (since 2004)

Society of Biblical Literature (since 2005)

International Society for Neoplatonic Studies (since 2005)

Languages

Reading Languages

Classical Greek (Attic and Epic), Latin, French, German

Teaching Languages

Attic Greek

Homeric Greek