

SESSION 1 (Th 9:00-11:30AM):

Brian Alt (independent scholar and teacher): "Purification in the Mud: Iamblichus, the Personal Daimon, and Symbolic Purity in the Greco-Egyptian Magical Papyri"

Michael Beshay (Pennsylvania State University): "Monks Making Magic: Monastic Conventions in Coptic Spells"

David Maldonado-Rivera (Kenyon College): "The Heresy in Your Skin: Ethnic Argument and Animality in the Church Historians of the Fifth and Sixth Centuries"

Kate Cooper (University of London): "Nuns, Magic, and Sexual Aggression"

Jennifer Hart (Curry College): "Ritual Error and the Making of 'True' Mandaean Priests"

Session 2 (Th 1:00-3:30pm):

Ellen Muehlberger (University of Michigan): "In the Shadow of the Monastery: How the Label of Asceticism Shapes Early Christian Studies"

Andrew Crislip (Virginia Commonwealth University): "Envy and Asceticism"

Stephen Shoemaker (University of Oregon): "Early Passion Piety and the Origins of Marian Lament at the Monastery of Mar Saba"

Rebecca Krawiec (Canisius College): "Death on (well, near) the Nile: Death and Ascetic Practice in Egyptian Monasticism"

Tola Rodrick (University of Alabama-Birmingham): "Debating the Philosophers: The Monastic Construction of a New Philosophical Identity in Late Ancient Egypt"

Session 3 (Th 4:00-6:30pm):

Austin Busch (State University of New York-Brockport): "Sexual Renunciation and Divine Rape in Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and Some Ancient Christian Writings"

Bradley K. Storin (Louisiana State University): "On Death Curses in Late Antique Hagiography"

Caroline Schroeder (University of Oklahoma): "Reconsidering 'the Morals of Their Time': Violence, Late Antique Monastic Leadership, and Modern Historiography"

Stephen Davis (Yale University): "An Arabic *Miracle of St. Shenoute*: Hagiographical Devotion and Patriarchal Patronage in Medieval Old Cairo"

Felege-Selam Yirga (University of Tennessee): "Monks, Monasticism, and Imperial Government in the *Chronicle* of John of Nikiu"

Session 4 (F 9:00-11:30am):

Charles Bobertz (Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary): "The Ascetic Reception of Mark in Fourth and Fifth Centuries"

Diane Fruchtman (Rutgers University): "Caesarius of Arles' Use of Augustine's Sermons on Martyrdom"

J. Albert Harrill (The Ohio State University): "To Purify One's Life by the Exact Science of Mathematical Calculations: Astrology as Ascetic Labor in the *Anthologiae* of Vettius Valens"

Georgia Frank (Colgate University): "Longsleepers and Vigil-Keepers: The Legend of the Seven Sleepers in Egyptian Christianity"

David Frankfurter (Boston University): "On the Gender of Demons"

David B. Brakke is currently the Joe R. Engle Professor of the History of Christianity at The Ohio State University, a position that he has held since 2012. He earned his B.A. in English from the University of Virginia (1983), his M.Div. from Harvard Divinity School (1986), and Ph.D. from Yale University (1992). He has previously taught at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN (1992-1993) and then at Indiana University-Bloomington (1993-2012). Additionally, he served as Visiting Professor of the History of Christianity at the University of Chicago Divinity School (Spring 2012) and the Croghan Bicentennial Visiting Professor of Biblical and Early Christian Studies at Williams College (Fall 2015).



Brakke's publications are numerous and widely praised. In addition to more than four dozen scholarly articles and several translations of Greek, Syriac, and Coptic texts, he has co-edited eight collections of essays and authored or co-authored many books, which include:

- *The Festal Letters of Athanasius of Alexandria, with the Festal Index of Historia Acephala* (with David M. Gwynn), Translated Texts for Historians 81 (Liverpool University Press, 2022)
- *The Gospel of Judas: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*, Anchor Yale Bible 45 (Yale University Press, 2022)
- *The Gnostic Scriptures*, 2nd edition, Anchor Yale Bible Reference Library (Yale University Press, 2021)
- *Selected Discourses of Shenoute the Great: Community, Theology, and Social Conflict in Late Antique Egypt* (with Andrew Crislip) (Cambridge University Press, 2015)
- *The Gnostics: Myth, Ritual, and Diversity in Early Christianity* (Harvard University Press, 2010) -- winner of the **Choice Outstanding Academic Title** (2011) and translated into Spanish and French
- *Evagrius of Pontus: Talking Back: A Monastic Handbook for Combatting Demons*, Cistercian Studies 229 (Liturgical Press, 2009)
- *Demons and the Making of the Monk: Spiritual Combat in Early Christianity* (Harvard University Press, 2006)
- *Pseudo-Athanasius On Virginity*, 2 vols., Corpus Scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium 592-593 (Peeters, 2002)
- *Athanasius and the Politics of Asceticism*, Oxford Early Christian Studies (Oxford University Press, 1995); reprinted as *Athanasius and Asceticism* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998)

In recognition of his superior scholarship, Brakke has been awarded numerous fellowships including an ACLS Junior Fellowship (1999-2000), the Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship (2002-2003), several NEH grants (1999-2000 and 2007-2010), a Luce and Huford Family Fellowship (2022-2023), and a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship (2022). This year, he is in residence at the National Humanities Center in Research Triangle Park, NC.

From 2005 to 2015, Brakke served as editor of the *Journal of Early Christian Studies*, our field's premier scholarly journal and the official publication of the North American Patristics Society.

Brakke's pedagogical imprint on the field is equally impressive. He has directed eight doctoral dissertations and served as external reader of eight other dissertations at Yale University, University of Oslo, University of Bergen, and University of Toronto. Many of his students now teach at prestigious institutions like the Curry College, Kenyon College, Louisiana State University, Penn State University, Rutgers University, State University of New York-Brockport, University of Alabama-Birmingham, University of Michigan, and University of Tennessee. However, Brakke has mentored and guided the careers of many other scholars—too many to list here.

Everyone presenting research here numbers among Brakke's mentees as well as his colleagues from graduate school and the *Journal of Early Christian Studies*.