

**Mary K. Farag**  
*Curriculum Vitae*

Princeton Theological Seminary  
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## **Education**

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- 2017 Doctor of Philosophy, Ancient Christianity – Yale University, New Haven, CT  
(Dissertation: *Sacred Things: The Legal Making of Churches in Late Antiquity*)  
2015 Master of Philosophy, Religious Studies –Yale University, New Haven, CT  
2015 Master of Arts, Religious Studies –Yale University, New Haven, CT  
2009 Master of Arts in Religion, Liturgics – *Summa cum laude*, Yale University, New Haven, CT  
2007 Bachelor of Arts, Linguistics – *Summa cum laude*, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

## **Teaching Experience**

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- 2023 – present Associate Professor of Early Christian Studies, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ  
2017 – 2023 Assistant Professor of Early Christian Studies, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ  
2017 Visiting Lecturer, Amherst College, Amherst, MA  
2014-2015 Instructor, Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT  
2014 Teaching Assistant, Yale College, New Haven, CT  
2012-2013 Teaching Assistant, Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT  
2011 Instructor, Pope Shenouda III Coptic Orthodox Theological Seminary, Cedar Grove, NJ

## **Courses**

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### *Princeton Theological Seminary*

- Graduate Survey of Early and Medieval Church History; World Christian History I; Practices of Mercy in the Early Church; Church and State Relations in Late Antiquity; Visual Expression in Churches of Late Antiquity; History of Christianity in Egypt; Reading as a Spiritual Practice
- PhD Seminars Historical Methods; The Soul and Society in Late Antiquity; The Creed of Nicaea
- Independent Studies New Texts by Theodore Abū Qurrah; Translating Maximos Margunios’s Commentary on Augustine’s *De Trinitate*; Syriac Angelology; Illness, Liminality, and Holiness in the First Greek *Life of Pachomius*; Emotional Modeling and Consolation in Selected Letters of St. Jerome; Council of Chalcedon; Late Antique Poetry; Early Christian Monastic Literature in Arabic

## **Administrative and Academic Service**

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Committees	Curriculum Assessment Committee (2017 – 2019, 2022) Task Force on Pedagogy and Curriculum (2018 – 2019) Masters Studies Committee (2020 – 2021) PhD Studies Admissions Committee (2022) Admissions Committee (2024) Advisory Committee on Diversity (2022-2025)
MA Theses Directed	Emily Chesley, “New Greek Works by Theodore Abū Qurrah: Early Manuscript Attestation in <i>Sinai Gr. 383</i> ” (2018); Briana Grenert, “Heavenly Ranks: Angelology in Bar Hebraeus and Thomas Aquinas” (2021); Jack Brownfield, “‘This Entire Letter is Written in Tears’: Emotional Modeling and Consolation in Selected <i>Letters</i> of St. Jerome” (2022); Bethany Cok, “‘Our Bodies Like Christ’s Crucified Body:’ Illness, Liminality, and Holiness in the First Greek <i>Life of Pachomius</i> ” (2022)

## **Professional Service**

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Memberships	International Association for Coptic Studies (since 2010), Society of Oriental Liturgy (since 2012), North American Patristics Society (since 2012), Society of Biblical Literature (since 2013), Byzantine Studies Association of North America (since 2013), American Society of Church History (since 2018); St. Shenouda the Archimandrite Coptic Society (since 2019)
Editorial Boards	Studies in Eastern Christian Liturgy (Aschendorff Verlag); Christianity in Late Antiquity (University of California Press)
Advisory Boards	Edinburgh Studies in Middle Eastern Christianity (Edinburgh University Press); <i>Coptic Church Review</i> (Archdeacon Habib Guirguis Educational Fund); Digital Edition of the Coptic Old Testament (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen); <i>Journal of Eastern Christian Studies</i> (Brill); Eastern Christian Studies (Brill); Axia Women; Graphai: Writings from Byzantium and Its Neighbors (Dumbarton Oaks)

## **Awards and Scholarships**

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2019-2020	Membership, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ
2016-2017	North American Patristics Society Dissertation Completion Grant
2016	Byzantine Studies Conference Graduate Student Award
2015-2016	Brand Blanshard Fellowship
2015-2016	Yale University Dissertation Fellowship
2014	Archdeacon Habib Guirguis Educational Fund Scholarship
2013-2014	Thomas Cooke Wordin Scholarship
2012	Augusta Hazard Fellowship for Archaeological Study

2009-2010	Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD) Study Scholarship
2007-2009	The Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans
2007-2009	Marquand Scholarship, Yale Divinity School
2007	Leopold Schepp Scholarship (declined)
2007	Phi Beta Kappa (Harvard's chapter: Alpha Iota of Massachusetts)
2003-2007	Simionescu Scholarship Grant
2004-2006	Harvard College Scholar

## Languages

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Native Command: English and Egyptian Arabic

Advanced Knowledge: German

Reading Knowledge: French, Arabic, Coptic, Greek, and Latin

## Books

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- 2021 [\*What Makes a Church Sacred? Legal and Ritual Perspectives from Late Antiquity\* \(Oakland: University of California Press\).](#)  
Reviews: Raymond Van Dam, *Church History* 91.3 (2022): 638–639; Daniel Caner, *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 30.3 (2022): 467–469.
- 2020 *The Feast of the Desert of Apa Shenoute: A Liturgical Procession from the White Monastery in Egypt (BN Copte 68)*, in collaboration with Stephen J. Davis, Samuel Moawad, and Daniel Schriever, *Corpus Scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium* 681, *Scriptores coptici* 53 (Louvain: Peeters Publishers).

## Articles

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- “ⲉ ⲁ ⲛ (teacher),” in *Philological Practices: A Comparative Historical Lexicon*, ed. Anne Eusterschulte, Glenn W. Most, and Martin Kern (Princeton: Princeton University Press, forthcoming).
- “The Limits of the Liturgical Art of Oratory in Late Antique Egypt,” in *Sacred Arts and Liturgy*, ed. Rossitza Schroeder and Grant White (Yonkers: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, forthcoming).
- “Coptic,” in collaboration with Vince Bantu, in *Global Christian Texts: Readings in Early Christianity from African, Middle Eastern and Asian Languages*, ed. Vince Bantu and Nathan Gibson (Oakland, CA: University of California Press, forthcoming).
- “Baptisteries of the Nilotic Regions,” co-authored with Nathan Chase and Arsany Paul, in *Baptisteries of the Early Christian World*, vol. 2, ed. Nathan Chase, Nathan Dennis, and Robin Jensen (Leiden: Brill, forthcoming).
- “Trading Places: The Reception of Pachomius and Theophilus in Hagiographical and Homiletic Texts,” in *λογική λατρεία: Proceedings of the Society of Oriental Liturgy, Thessaloniki (Greece)*, 13–

18 June 2022, ed. Daniel Galadza, Arsenius Mikhail, and Chrysostomos Nassis (Münster: Aschendorff Verlag, 2025), 155–229.

“Coptic Liturgy,” in *Africa and Byzantium*, ed. Andrea Achi (New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2023), 160–163.

“Polyglot Psalter (AFB.194),” in *Africa and Byzantium*, ed. Andrea Achi (New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2023), 164–165.

“Using Written Records in Liturgical Oratory: Conflicting Views in Late Sixth- and Early Seventh-Century Egypt,” *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 30.4 (2022): 615–641.

“Scriptural Interpretation in the Late Antique Coptic Tradition,” in *The Oxford Handbook of the Bible in Orthodox Christianity*, ed. Eugen Pentiu (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022), 427–444.

“Coptic,” in *Eastern Christianity: A Reader*, ed. James E. Walters (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2021), 325–365.

“Rewriting Scriptures as a Homiletic Practice in Late Antique Egypt,” *Journal of Coptic Studies* 23 (2021): 47–61.

“Church Buildings and the Ritual Economy at Consecratory Festivals in Late Antiquity,” in *Let Us Be Attentive! Proceedings of the Society of Oriental Liturgy, Prešov (Slovakia), 9-14 July 2018*, Studies in Eastern Christian Liturgies 1, ed. Martin Lüstraeten, Brian Butcher, and Stephen Hawkes-Teeple, (Münster: Aschendorff Verlag, 2020), 41–56.

“Relics vs. Paintings of the Three Holy Children: Coptic Responses to Chalcedonian Claims in Alexandria,” *Analecta Bollandiana* 137.2 (2019): 261–276.

“Pachomius outside the Shadow of the *Vita Antonii*,” *Harvard Theological Review* 111.4 (2018): 516–540.

“Left Behind: A Recent Discovery of Manuscript Fragments in the White Monastery Church,” co-authored with Louise Blanke, Stephen J. Davis, Elizabeth Davidson, Gillian Pyke, and Daniel Schriever, *Journal of Coptic Studies* 16 (2014): 69–87.

“Sale of Wine on Delivery,” in *Coptica Argentoratensia: Textes et documents, Troisième université d’été de papyrologie copte (Strasbourg, 18-25 juillet 2010)*, ed. Anne Boud’hors, Alain Delattre, Catherine Louis, and Tonio Sebastian Richter (Paris: Éditions de Boccard, 2014), 155–158.

“The Mosaic Map of Madaba and Late Antique Discourse on Ecclesial Space,” in *Synaxis Katholike. Beiträge zu Gottesdienst und Geschichte der fünf altkirchlichen Patriarchate für Heinzgerd Brakmann zum 70. Geburtstag*, ed. Diliانا Atanassova and Tinatin Chronz (Münster: LIT Verlag, 2014), 175–196.

“A Shared Prayer over Water in the Eastern Christian Traditions,” in *Liturgy in Migration: From the Upper Room to Cyberspace*, ed. Teresa Berger (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2012), 43–82.

“The Anaphora of St. Thomas the Apostle: Translation and Commentary,” *Le Muséon* 123.3-4 (2010): 317–361.

“Δύναμις Epicleses: An Athanasian Perspective,” *Studia Liturgica* 39.1 (2009): 63–79.

### **Encyclopedia Entry**

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“Coptic Language,” in *The Routledge Medieval Encyclopedia Online*, forthcoming.

### **Other Publications**

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[“Plague, Paschaltide and Pachom: What Is Really at Stake during a Pandemic,” \*Being in Community\*, 21 May 2020.](#)

“Glory and Mercy,” *Jacob’s Well*, Fall 2018, p. 40–43.

[“Foreward,” \*Art as a Voice for the Church\*, \*Princeton Theological Review\* 21 \(2018\): 9–10.](#)

### **Conference Papers**

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- 16 September 2022 “Trading Places: The Reception of Pachomius and Theophilus in Hagiographical and Homiletic Texts,” History and Ecumenics Department Colloquium, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ
- 23 October 2020 “The Church of St. Mary in the Kidron Valley: A Cultural Biography,” Byzantine Studies Conference, held online
- 10 February 2020 “Rewriting Scriptures as a Homiletic Practice in Late Antique Egypt,” Historical Studies Colloquium, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ
- 23 October 2019 “The Political Subtexts of Coptic Pseudepigraphy: Stories of the First Church of Mary as Responses to Territorial Dispossession,” Near Eastern Studies Seminar, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ
- 9 May 2019 “Visions, Images, and Theōria in Coptic Accounts of Church Consecrations,” Byzantine Materiality Conference, St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary Sacred Arts Initiative, Yonkers, NY
- 20 November 2018 “Copto-Arabic Narratives of Church Consecrations as Ekphraseis of Ecclesial Art,” Society of Biblical Literature, Denver, CO
- 12 July 2018 “Church Buildings and the Ritual Economy at Consecratory Festivals in Late Antiquity,” Society of Oriental Liturgy Conference, Prešov, Slovakia
- 24 May 2018 “Festivals for the Consecration of Churches in Late Antiquity,” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL

- 28 November 2016 “Administrative Transition in the Fifth Century: The Role of the Dying Bishop’s Will,” Greco-Roman Lunch Series, Yale University, New Haven, CT
- 27 July, 2016 “Narrative Visions of Church Consecrations as Interpretations of Ecclesial Space,” International Association for Coptic Studies, Eleventh International Congress, Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, CA
- 27 May 2016 “Contested Ecclesial Landscapes in the Trial of John Chrysostom,” North American Patristics Society, Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
- 11 February 2016 “Ecclesial Offering and Divine Largess: A Rereading of Bishops’ Donor Portraits in Late Antiquity,” Yale Interdisciplinary Working Group for the Study of Antiquity, New Haven, CT
- 23 October 2015 “Ecclesial Property and the Trials of Ibas of Edessa and Dioscoros of Alexandria,” Byzantine Studies Conference, New York City, NY
- 12 March 2015 [“Website Galleries of the White Monastery Candle Room Manuscript Fragments: Challenges of Digitization and Classification,” Digital Coptic 2, Coptic Scriptorium, Georgetown University, Washington, DC](#)
- 16 June 2014 Response to Reinhard Messner’s paper, “Imagining Late Antique Liturgies via Oriental Sources: The Case of Alexandria and Egypt,” Yale Institute of Sacred Music, New Haven, CT
- 2 November 2013 Co-presented with Stephen J. Davis, Elizabeth Davidson, and Daniel Schriever, “Left Behind: A Recent Discovery of Manuscript Fragments in the White Monastery Church,” Byzantine Studies Conference, Yale University, New Haven, CT
- 2 November 2013 “Construing Consecration: Homiletic Practice and Monastic Church Space in Late Ancient Egypt,” Byzantine Studies Conference, Yale University, New Haven, CT
- 25 May 2013 “The Mosaic Map of Madaba and Late Antique Discourse on Ecclesial Space,” North American Patristics Society, Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
- 19 September 2012 “Pachomius outside the Shadow of the *Vita Antonii*: Pauline Literature in Pachomian Hagiography,” International Association for Coptic Studies, Tenth International Congress, Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum, Rome, Italy
- 11 November 2011 “A Shared Prayer over Water in the Eastern Epiphany Rites,” Yale Institute of Sacred Music, New Haven, CT

### **Invited Lectures**

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- 7 August 2024 “Re-evaluating Pachomius’s Chronology and the Koinonia’s Relationship to the Alexandrian Episcopate,” Oxford Patristics Conference, Oxford, UK

- 16 April 2024 “What Made a Church Sacred in Late Antiquity? Two Different Views and the Tension between Them,” Sacred Space: Presence, Person, Beauty Series, Eric Parry Architects Podcast
- 21 September 2023 “Cultural Memories of the Church of Mary in the Valley of Josaphat,” Liturgies of the Church of Alexandria Conference, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC
- 24 March 2023 “Mary and Late Antique Egypt,” Healing and Justice: The Virgin Mary in African Literature and Art, Wendy Belcher, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
- 25 January 2023 “Copts and North America,” Die Kopten und Europa, Heike Behlmer, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, convened online
- 3 November 2022 “Comparative Liturgical History,” OCA NY and NJ Diocesan Assembly, St. Peter and St. Paul Orthodox Church, Endicott, NY
- 3 November 2022 “Book Talk: *What Makes a Church Sacred?*,” OCA NY and NJ Diocesan Assembly, St. Peter and St. Paul Orthodox Church, Endicott, NY
- 7 July 2022 “Book Talk: *What Makes a Church Sacred?*,” Eastern Diocese of Pennsylvania OCA Deanery Meeting, St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Bethlehem, PA
- 14 June 2022 “Trading Places: The Reception of Pachomius and Theophilus in Hagiographical and Homiletic Texts,” Society of Oriental Liturgy Conference, Thessaloniki, Greece
- 15 December 2021 [“Late Antique Homilies on the Holy Places in Egypt,” Material and Written Culture of Christian Egypt, Online Lecture Series of the Göttingen Academy of Sciences and Humanities and the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen](#)
- 30 September 2021 “Sacred Things between Law and Justice in Late Antiquity: Two Case Studies,” Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins, University of Pennsylvania, held online
- 11 July 2021 “The Scriptures in the Apostolic Life,” Servants Meeting, St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church, East Brunswick, NJ
- 8 March 2021 “Cultural Memories of the Church of Mary in the Valley of Josaphat,” Near Eastern Studies Seminar, Princeton University, held online
- 2 February 2021 “What Made a Church Sacred in Late Antiquity? Two Different Views and the Tension between Them,” Leibnizpreiskolloquium convened by Hartmut Leppin, Goethe Universität, Frankfurt am Main, held online
- 2 December 2020 “Disputes over Fair Use in Late Antique Egypt,” Classics Department Colloquium, University of Iowa, held online

- 29 September 2020 “The Understanding of the Priestly Qualities of the Church in the Coptic Orthodox Tradition,” United States Oriental Orthodox-Roman Catholic Consultation, held online
- 10 June 2020 [“Plague, Paschaltide, and Pachom,” Webinar, East Coast Coptic Youth Committee](#)
- 12 January 2020 “The Feast of Epiphany,” Servants Meeting, St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church, East Brunswick, NJ
- 3 March 2019 “Lenten Practices in the Early Church,” Adult Education, Nassau Presbyterian Church, Princeton, NJ
- 6 February 2019 “The Ritual Economy at Consecratory Festivals in Late Antiquity,” Committee for the Study of Late Antiquity, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
- 16 June 2018 “Liturgical Theology,” Adult Education Seminar, St. Mary and St. Athanasius Coptic Orthodox Church, Hillsborough, NJ
- 20 February 2018 “Festivals for the Consecration of Churches in Late Antiquity,” History and Ecumenics Department Colloquium, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ
- 10 December 2017 “Glory and Mercy,” Advent Vespers, Holy Cross Orthodox Church, Medford, NJ
- 14 January 2017 “Orthodox Christian Liturgical Life,” Many Faces of Christ Series, All Saints Episcopal Church, Princeton, NJ
- 7 November 2016 “What It Meant to Build a Church in Late Antiquity: Perspectives from Material Culture,” Amherst College, Amherst, MA
- 7 November 2016 “The World of the Early Christians,” The Secret Jesus Seminar, Professor Robert Doran, Religion 372, Amherst College, Amherst, MA
- 12 October 2015 “Christ in the Coptic Orthodox Tradition,” Christology in Dialogue Lecture and Seminar, Professor Peter Bouteneff, Dogmatic Theology 444, St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary, Yonkers, NY
- 3 October 2015 “Our Prayers in Common,” East Meets East Education Day, St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary, Yonkers, NY
- 21 June 2015 “The Anaphora of St. Basil,” East Coast Coptic Youth Convention, Servants’ Retreat on The Holy Eucharist, Scranton, PA
- 19 June 2015 “The History of Egyptian Liturgies,” East Coast Coptic Youth Convention, Servants’ Retreat on The Holy Eucharist, Scranton, PA



- 25 February 2015 “Justinian’s Laws on Church Buildings,” Iconology of Orthodox Architecture, Professor Richard Schneider, Liturgical Art 342/442, St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary, Yonkers, NY
- 25 October 2014 “History and Theology of Christian Prayers and Rites in Egypt,” Second Annual Mid-West Coptic Orthodox Servants Convention, Toledo, OH
- 8 May 2014 “Sources and Problems in the Study of Egyptian Liturgies,” Oriental Liturgies Lecture and Seminar, Rev. Dr. Alexander Rentel, Liturgical Theology 373, St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary, Yonkers, NY
- 24 October 2013 “Christ in the Coptic Orthodox Tradition,” Christology in Dialogue Lecture and Seminar, Professor Peter Bouteneff, Dogmatic Theology 444, St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary, Yonkers, NY
- 17 March 2011 “Coptic Perspectives on the Revolution in Egypt,” co-presented with Stephen J. Davis, Middle East Forum, Trinity Episcopal Church, Southport, CT

### **Fieldwork**

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- 03/2016-03/2016 Finds Registrar, YMAP-South, Sohag, Egypt
- 03/2016-03/2016 Cataloger, YMAP-North, Wadi Al-Natrun, Egypt
- 03/2014-03/2014 Assistant Registrar, YMAP-North, Wadi Al-Natrun, Egypt
- 12/2012-12/2012 Field Archaeologist, YMAP-South, Sohag, Egypt
- 04/2012-06/2012 Field Archaeologist, YMAP-North, Wadi Al-Natrun, Egypt

### **Other Experience**

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- 04/2014-01/2015 Assistant Web Designer, YMAP-South, New Haven, CT
- 10/2012-03/2013 Events Organizer, Harvard-Yale-Brown Day 2013, New Haven, CT
- 10/2009-07/2010 Freelance Editor, Münster, Germany
- 07/2008-05/2009 Research Assistant to Professor Bryan Spinks, New Haven, CT
- 01/2009-03/2009 Yale Divinity School Admissions Committee Member, New Haven, CT
- 09/2005-06/2007 Research Assistant to Professor Afsaneh Najmabadi, Cambridge, MA

### **Community Service**

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- 09/2022-Present Head and Teacher, Church School of St. Gregory Palamas Orthodox Church, Glen Gardner, NJ
- 06/2007-Present Volunteer, Habib Guirguis Educational Fund, East Rutherford, NJ
- 09/2008-09/2009 Volunteer, Amnesty International
- 09/2010-12/2011 Ancient Greek Language Tutor, New Haven, CT
- 06/2002-09/2009 Sunday School Teacher, Coptic Language Teacher, and Head Librarian, St. Antonious and St. Mina Coptic Orthodox Church, East Rutherford, NJ
- 03/2008-05/2009 Tutor, New Haven Reads, New Haven, CT

12/2008-04/2009 Coptic Language Teacher, St. Mary and Archangel Michael Coptic Orthodox Church, Hamden, CT

09/2004-06/2007 Director and Volunteer, Women and Children's Prisoner Education, Cambridge, MA