

Christopher D.L. Johnson

Instructor
Department of Religious Studies
The University of Alabama
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Education

- 2009 Ph.D. in Religious Studies
The University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK
- Dissertation: "Authority and Tradition in Contemporary Understandings of Hesychasm and the Jesus Prayer"
- Advisors: James Cox and Steven Sutcliffe, Committee: Christian Lange, Ulrich Berner
- Field research at Eastern Orthodox monasteries and churches in Mount Athos, Greece, the United States, and the United Kingdom
- 2005 M.Sc. with Distinction in Religious Studies
The University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK
- Thesis: "Eliade's Concepts of the Sacred and the Profane and the Existential Phenomenology of Merleau-Ponty: A Fresh Interpretation of the Controversial Terms"
- 2003 B.A. in Philosophy, Minor in Religious Studies
Rhodes College, Memphis, TN

Publications

The Globalization of Hesychasm and the Jesus Prayer: Contesting Contemplation, Continuum
Advances in Religious Studies (Continuum, December 2010)

Review of Irina Paert, *Spiritual Elders: Charisma and Tradition in Russian Orthodoxy*
(Northern Illinois University Press, 2010) in *Numen: International Review for the History of Religions*
(Brill, 2012)

Review of Irina Papkova, *The Orthodox Church and Russian Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2011)
in *Religion* (Routledge, forthcoming)

"'That his works might be hidden': Concealed compassion and trickery in *The Life of Symeon the Fool*"
(in progress)

"What has Iceland to do with Byzantium?: Two Unlikely Discourses on Glossolalia," A comparison of
the discourses on nonsense syllables in Byzantine chant and the music of Sigur Rós. (in progress)

"Transrational language in Russian Futurism and Byzantine chant," An analysis of the relationship
between *zhaum'* (transrational language) in Russian Futurism and the nonsense syllables of Byzantine
'kalophonic' chant. (in progress)

Review of Paul Heelas, *Spiritualities of Life: New Age Romanticism and Consumerist Capitalism*
(Blackwell, 2008) in *Reviews in Religion and Theology* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010)

Teaching Experience

Instructor, Religious Studies, University of Alabama:

- "Introduction to Religious Studies," Fall 2010, Spring 2011

Instructor, Honors College & New College, University of Alabama:

- “The Spirituality of the Christian East,” Spring 2010
- “Mad, Holy, or Both?: The Cultural Significance of the Holy Fool,” Spring 2010, Summer 2010
- “Culture and Human Experience,” Fall 2009, Spring 2010

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Edinburgh:

- “Religion and Society: Social Scientific Approaches to the Study of Religion,” Spring 2008
- “Making Sense of Religion: Historical, Phenomenological and Cultural Approaches to the Study of Religion,” Fall 2007
- “Religion in the Contemporary World: Indigenous Religions and the Religions of Asia,” Spring 2007
- “Religion in the Contemporary World: Judaism, Christianity and Islam,” Fall 2006

Scholarly and Professional Presentations

“Base, but nevertheless holy’: lessons in liminality from Symeon of Emesa,” Eastern Orthodox Studies Group, AAR Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 2011 (accepted)

“Is Symeon of Emesa a Christian trickster?,” Orthodox Theological Society of America Annual Meeting, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, MA, September 2011 (accepted)

“Between Madness and Holiness: St. Symeon of Emesa and ‘the pedagogics of liminality’,” International Conference on Patristic Studies, University of Oxford, August 2011 (accepted)

“The Aesthetics of Nonsense: Compositional and Interpretive Creativity in the Meaningless Syllables of Byzantine Chant,” Music and Religion Consultation, AAR Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 2010

“Turning East(ward): The Appeal of Eastern Christianity and the Dialogue of the Familiar and Unfamiliar,” SECSOR Annual Meeting, Greensboro, NC, March 2009

“Orthodoxy as Therapy: Reflections of an Orthodox Christian Therapeutic Theology in the Light of Carrette and King’s *Selling Spirituality*,” Religious Studies Postgraduate Seminar, University of Edinburgh, January 2008

“Far From Monastery Walls: The Global Journey of Orthodox Monastic Spirituality,” BASR Annual Conference, University of Edinburgh, September 2007

“Views on Hesychasm and the Jesus Prayer as Contemporary Practices,” Religious Studies Postgraduate Seminar, University of Edinburgh, March 2006

Areas of Research and Interest

Globalization and Religion, Religious Appropriation, Authority and Tradition, Eastern Christianity, Monasticism and Asceticism, Orientalism

Academic Service

Theta Alpha Kappa- National Honor Society for Religious Studies and Theology:

- *Panel of Judges*, Albert Clark Award, 2011
Evaluated graduate student papers for a financial award and journal publication

University of Alabama:

- *Faculty Moderator*, Theta Alpha Kappa, Fall 2009-Spring 2011

Oversaw the honor society, recruited new members, created a lecture series for student research, and took students to meetings of the AAR to present papers

- *Proofreader* for Mark Muesse, *The Hindu Traditions: A Concise Introduction* (Fortress, 2011) Summer 2010
- *Faculty Advisor*, NSEP Boren Scholarships, Spring 2010
Conducted interviews to award scholarships for international study
- *Faculty Advisor*, RAGE SGA scholarships, Fall 2009
Selection Committee for RAGE need-based and merit-based scholarships awarded by SGA

University of Edinburgh:

- *Editorial Board Member*, 2007
ZjR, (*Zeitschrift fuer junge Religionswissenschaft*)
Online German-English journal of religion for graduate and undergraduate research