Jonathan L. Zecher   
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**Areas of Research Interest:**

* *Historical Theology and Spirituality*: theological anthropology, martyrdom and monasticism, apocalyptic, Byzantine theology and spirituality, and liturgy;
* *Patristics*: John Climacus, Barsanuphius and John of Gaza, Athanasius of Alexandria, Maximus the Confessor, Ascetic Fathers, Hesychast Movement, Nicodemus of Athos (and the *Philokalia*)
* *Eastern Orthodox Theology and Spirituality*: liturgy, funerary theology, contemporary philosophical theology
* *Church History* *(Early, Medieval, and Byzantine)*: martyrdom, ascetic movement and monastic developments, Byzantium and its neighbours (particularly Western Europe and Muslim empires), Byzantine influence in Slav lands

**Education:**  
**Ph.D., Theology, University of Durham:** **viva’d, awaiting confirmation, 2011**  
Concentrations: Historical theology (primarily Greek patristics), Church history, liturgical theology, contemporary Eastern Orthodox theology  
Thesis: *The Symbolics of Death and the Construction of Christian Asceticism: Greek Patristic Voices from the Fourth through Seventh Centuries*

**M.A. with Distinction, Theology and Religion, University of Durham, 2007**  
Courses: Theological Interpretation of Scripture, Theological Anthropology of the Fathers, The Self and Transformation (Topics in Christian Spirituality)  
Dissertation: *Body, Soul, and the Image of God in the Greek Fathers of the 2nd to 4th Centuries*   
  
**B.A, Liberal Arts, St. John’s College, Santa Fe, 2003**

Majors: Philosophy and History of Mathematics

Minors: Languages (Greek and French) and History of Science

Dissertation: *The Thirsty Land Shall Blossom: The Transformation of Humanity in the Gospel of Luke*

**Languages:**

* Fluent in Classical, Koine and Byzantine Greek
* Fluent in French
* Proficient in Latin, German
* Reading knowledge in Italian, Spanish, Romanian

**Teaching Experience:**

For the last two years I have worked as a tutorial leader and essay marker for four different introductory classes in Church history, and historical and contemporary theology. I reprise these various teaching duties in the present academic year for six different classes, which now include philosophy as well as theology.

Seminar Instructor, 2010-2011

*University of Durham*

* + - *Courses:* Christianity in Context; Church and Society in Late Antiquity; Early Christian Doctrine; Making of Modern Christianity; Introduction to Christian Theology; God, Freedom and the Soul
* Taught weekly classes ranging in size from six to sixteen students and in topics from church history to modern philosophy
* Course format was seminar—discussion-based, taking a short text each week for topic.
* Coordinated student presentations, presented additional information and advice, as well directing conversations.
* Marked student essays and met with students to discuss progress.

Seminar Instructor, 2009-2010  
*University of Durham*

* + - *Courses:* Christianity in Context; Church and Society in Late Antiquity
* As above

Seminar Instructor, 2008-2009  
*University of Durham*

* *Courses:* The Making of Modern Christianity; Christianity in Context; God in the World
* As above

**Publications:**

* ‘Death’s Spiraling Narrative: On ‘Reading’ the Orthodox Funeral’, *Studia Liturgica* (forthcoming, 2011)
* ‘Tradition and Creativity in the Construction and Reading of the *Philokalia*’, in Brock Bingaman and Bradley Nassif (eds.), *The Philokalia: Exploring the Classic Text of Orthodox Spirituality* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming, 2011)
* ‘Death and the Possibility of a Ladder’, *Studia Patristica* 52 (forthcoming, 2011)
* ‘John Climacus and Sinaite Spirituality’, in A.M. Casiday (ed.), *The Orthodox Christian World* (London: Routledge, forthcoming, 2011)
* ‘The Angelic Life in Desert and *Ladder*’, under submission to *Journal of Early Christian Studies*

**Book Reviews**

* ‘Review of Piotr Ashwin-Siejkowski, *Clement of Alexandria: A Project for Human Perfection’*, *Journal of Theological Studies* 61:1 (2010)
* ‘Review of John T. Fitzgerald (ed.), *Passions and Moral Progress in Greco-Roman Antiquity*’, *Journal of Theological Studies* 61:1 (2010)
* ‘Review of Jean-Luc Marion, *On the Ego and on God: Further Cartesian Questions*’, *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 16:2 (2009), 265-267

**Conference and Seminar Presentations:**

* 2010: ‘Death and the Possibility of a Ladder’, paper presented at the Third National Patristics Conference, Durham
* 2010: ‘Angelic Life in the Desert and John Climacus’, paper presented at the North American Patristics Society conference, Chicago
* 2009: ‘*“*There must be no Christians”: Martyrs, Scapegoats, and Rene Girard’, paper presented at the Second National Patristics Conference, Cambridge
* 2009: ‘In Praise of an Apostolic Man: Chrysostom’s Rhetoric and the Rise of Ignatius’ Cult at Antioch’, paper presented at the Ecclesiastical History Society Conference, Durham
* 2008: ‘Martyrs in the Liturgy; Liturgy in the Martyrs’, paper presented at the Orthodox Theological Research Fellowship conference, Durham

**Professional and Administrative Experience:**

Over the last three years I have taken an active role in the life of my academic department and a special interest in organizing conferences for postgraduates and established scholars.

**1. Conferences Organized**

**January 13-14, 2009, St. John’s College, University of Durham – *Interdisciplinarity in Theology and Religion: How to tie knots that will hold***

Chair, Organizing Committee

* Lead organizer for an international-scale postgraduate-oriented conference of seventy delegates from six countries, co-funded by Durham University and the Arts and Humanities Research Council, with collaboration from Intute: Arts and Humanities Oxford and several publishers
* Keynote speakers were Profs. Sarah Coakley (Cambridge) and Douglas Davies (Durham)

**April 27-29, 2009, University of Durham – *Eastern Orthodox and Western Christian Perspectives on Bioethics***

Conference Assistant

**September 1-3, 2010, St. John’s College, University of Durham – *Third British Patristics Conference***

Member, Organizing Committee

**September 15-17, 2010, St. John’s College, University of Durham – *Orthodox Theological Research Fellowship Annual Conference***

Sole Organizer

**2. Administrative Experience**

* **2007-2009**: Student-Staff Consultative Committee, Departmental Research Committee, Departmental Board of Studies
* **2009-present:** Departmental Ethics Committee
* **2008-present:** Orthodox Theological Research Fellowship Steering Committee

**3. Professional Experience**

* **2011: Durham University, Department of Theology and Religion**
* Research Assistant to Dr. Krastu Banev
* Duties include assistance with developing and administering courses, locating research materials and book reviews, summarizing books and articles, proofreading, and assisting with travel.
* **2003-2006: Engel & Lofton, LLP; Engel Law Firm, PC; Arthur B. Lofton, PA**
* Office manager for law firm in Santa Fe, specializing in contractual, corporate, real estate, estate planning, and probate law: managing all day-to-day operations including billing, calendars, filing, legal preparation, dictation, and client meetings
* During the same period I became a paralegal for the firm: preparing legal documents including wills, trusts, and pleadings; client intake and meetings
* Simultaneously contracted as the firm’s bookkeeper: paid invoices and wages, managed income and IOLTA Trust Account, bank reconciliations, taxes, employee records

**Grants and Fellowships Received:**

* **2007: Department of Theology and Religion, University of Durham**, De Bury Scholarship
* **2008: University of Durham, Overseas Research Studentship**, tuition for two years of doctorate
* **2008: Arts and Humanities Research Council**, Collaborative Student Scheme, for postgraduate conference
* **2009: Department of Theology and Religion, University of Durham**, Van Mildert Scholarship

**References**

**Rev. Prof. Andrew Louth**

Professor of Patristic and Byzantine Studies

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Durham University

Abbey House

Palace Green

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**Prof. Lewis Ayres**

Bede Professor of Catholic Theology

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**Dr. Krastu Banev**

Lecturer in Greek Patristics

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