

## SIGRID PETERSON, PH.D.

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### EDUCATION

PhD, Religious Studies, December 2006, University of Pennsylvania  
Dissertation supervised by Robert Kraft, titled ***Martha Shamoni: A Jewish Syriac Rhymed Liturgical Poem of the Maccabean Martyrdoms (6 Maccabees)***.

MS, Semitic Languages and Literature, June 1992, University of Utah  
Supervised by Harris Lenowitz, Ph.D. One-day exam, no thesis.

PhD, Counseling/Clinical Psychology, 1981, University of Utah  
Dissertation supervised by Reed Merrill, titled ***A Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory based depression battery : construct validity in relationship to learned helplessness***.

### CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Coordinator, OG/LXX Variants, University of Pennsylvania,  
Philadelphia, PA.

### FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

NEH Summer Seminar "Aramaic in Post-Biblical Judaism and Earliest Christianity" at Duke University, June-July, 2004  
Jewish Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Brenner Travel Award 2002, 2004  
Dean's Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 1997-1998  
Charlotte Newcombe Tuition Awards, University of Pennsylvania  
Charlotte Newcombe Summer Internship, University of Pennsylvania 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2000  
Finkelstein Fellowship, University of Judaism/Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies 1997  
Interuniversity Fellowship in Jewish Studies, year of study in Israel, Bar-Ilan and Hebrew University, Michael Sokoloff, Aviezer Ravitzky, 1995-96  
Goldfein Travel Grant for Jewish Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 1995, 2000  
Penn Religious Studies Departmental Tuition Grant, Fall 1993

## PUBLICATIONS

- Response to Paper by David deSilva, "Like Noble Athletes of Piety': 4 Maccabees as an Influence on Origen's Exhortatio," in James H. Charlesworth, Lee M. McDonald, and Ken Penner, eds., (tentative title) *Function of Apocryphal and Pseudepigraphal Writings in Early Judaism and Early Christianity*. In preparation for T & T Clark, Edinburgh.
- "Seventh Maccabees, Introduction, Translation of the Syriac Text, and Notes," *More Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, ed. by Richard Bauckham and James Davila. With Seville George Mannickarottu. Winona Lake, Indiana: Eisenbrauns. In preparation (estimated 2009).
- "Sixth Maccabees, Introduction, Translation of the Syriac Text, and Notes," *More Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, ed. by Richard Bauckham and James Davila. Winona Lake, Indiana: Eisenbrauns. In preparation (estimated 2009).
- "The Question of 'Jewish Syriac': To What Does the Term Apply?" in Eric Meyers, Paul V. M. Flesher, and Lucas Van Rompay, eds., tentative title *Aramaic Studies in Judaism and Early Christianity*, Winona Lake, Indiana: Eisenbrauns. In preparation (estimated 2008).
- "Caves, Documents, Women: Archives and Archivists," *The Dead Sea Scrolls Fifty Years after their Discovery: Proceedings of the Jerusalem Congress, July 20-25, 1997*; Executive ed., Galen Marquis, also ed. by Lawrence H. Schiffman, Emanuel Tov, and James C. VanderKam, Jerusalem, Israel: IES and The Israel Antiquities Authority (2000) 761-772.
- "Ethical and Devotional Literature," Michael Terry, ed., *Reader's Guide to Judaism*, Chicago, IL: Fitzroy Dearborn (2000) 167-8.
- "History: Talmudic Era," Michael Terry, ed., *Reader's Guide to Judaism*, Chicago, IL: Fitzroy Dearborn (2000) 253-4.
- "Media Papyri: Examining Carsten Thiede's Rediscovered Fragments of Matthew." Electronically published by IOUDAIOS (1995) at the following URL: <ftp://ftp.lehigh.edu/pub/listserv/ioudaios-l/Articles/spthiede>

## REVIEWS

Part of the following group Review:

Martin Goodman (ed.), *Jews in a Graeco-Roman World*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1998 [actually spring 1999]. Beth Pollard and Robert Kraft, review eds. I contributed essays on articles 6 through 10 and 13 and 14; the review appeared in *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2005.08.10, at the following URL: <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/bmcr/2005/2005-08-10.html>

Bruce Chilton and Jacob Neusner, *Judaism in the New Testament: Practices and Beliefs* (New York, NY: Routledge, 1995). Note appeared in *Religious Studies Review* 23 (1997) 195.

*The Talmud of Babylonia, An American Translation: Volume XXXA: Tractate Hullin; Chapters 1-2*. Tzvee Zahavy, Translator (Brown Judaic Studies 253. Atlanta, GA: Scholars Press, 1992). Pp. xix + 238. Review appeared in IOUDAIOS

REVIEW, Vol. 2.924, Nov., 1992, at the following URL:  
<ftp://ftp.lehigh.edu/pub/listserv/ioudaios-review/2.1992/zahavy.peterson.024>.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

"Syriac-Speaking Judaism: They who Read and Write in the (Syriac) Outside Books." Paper presented to the History and Literature of Early Rabbinic Judaism Section, AAR/SBL Joint Session, Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.; November 20, 2006.

"Naming the Anonymous: HB/OT and Other Sources for Naming the Mother with Seven Sons of the Maccabean Martyrdoms." Paper presented to the Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins, May 14, 2004.

"Getting Past the Religion of the Text: Proposing a Different Question." Paper presented to the Early Jewish Christian Relations Section, Society of Biblical Literature, SBL/AAR Annual Meeting, Toronto, Ontario; November 25, 2002.

"The Maccabean Martyrdoms: Versions and Varieties." Paper presented to the Pseudepigrapha Section, Society of Biblical Literature, SBL/AAR Annual Meeting, Toronto, Ontario; November 24, 2002.

"The Jewish Community and Early Syriac Christianity: Connecting the Dots." Paper presented to the Intertestamental History and Literature Session, 2002 International Meeting, The Society of Biblical Literature, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, July 21, 2002.

"Have Story, Will Travel: Dislocation of the Maccabean Martyrdoms." Paper presented to the Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, April 18, 2002.

"Paradigm Shift: Linking the Cairo Genizah." Paper presented at the Association for Jewish Studies Convention, Chicago, IL, December 21, 1999.

"Jewish Myth: An Exploration." Paper presented to the Department of Religious Studies Colloquium, October 1, 1999.

"Martha Shamoni: A Rediscovered Text of the Hasmonean Martyrdoms." Paper presented at Association for Jewish Studies, Late Antiquity Section, Boston, December, 1997.

"Caves, Documents, Women: Archives and Archivists." Paper presented at the International Congress on the Dead Sea Scrolls-Fifty Years after their Discovery, Jerusalem, Israel, July, 1997 [subsequently published].

"Materials for Midrash: An Examination of Some Non-Biblical Sources for Midrash and Aggada." Paper presented in the Rabbinic and Patristic Exegesis Group, SBL, New Orleans, November 1996.

"Expanded Text in the First 12 Chapters of Deuteronomy." Paper presented in the Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible Section, SBL, New Orleans, November 1996.

"Fourth Maccabees and the Asia Minor Provenance Hypothesis." Paper presented in the Hellenistic Judaism Section, SBL, Chicago, November 1994, and available at the following URL: <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/%7Epetersig/mcc4sbl.htm>.

"The Visions of Deborah." Paper presented at Visions and the Visionary Conference, School of Religion, University of Kansas, April, 1991.

## **LANGUAGES**

Speaking ability in Hebrew and German

Reading knowledge of the following:

Hebrew: Biblical, Mishnaic, and Modern

Aramaic: Biblical, Jewish Palestinian, Jewish Babylonian, Nabatean, Palmyran, Zoharic

Syriac

Ugaritic

Greek

French

German

Yiddish

Beginning work in Arabic, Coptic, Latin

## **EXPERIENCE**

Teaching at University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, 1992 to present:

*Designed and taught varied courses for undergraduate day and evening students, employing media and internet, including:*

\*Instructor, Introduction to Judaism, Spring 06.

*Taught contemporary practice based on the development of halacha from the biblical text and rabbinic period. Also a little bit of Kabbala.*

\*Instructor, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, Summer '99

Instructor, Modern Religious Thought, Autumn '92, Autumn '94

Instructor, Psychology and Religion, Summer '93, '97, '03, '06; Spring '93, '95, Autumn '99

Informal Instructor, Introduction to Syriac, Summer & Fall '06, Fall '07

Formal Instructor, Independent Study in Syriac, Spring '07

\*Instructor, Lady Wisdom, Wisdom Personified, Spring '99, Spring '01

Writing Program Fellow, The Devil, Women, and the Jews, Autumn '98

Writing Program Fellow, History of Greco-Roman Art, several semesters

\*Teaching at St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA, Fall 2004

*Taught the second-level course Introduction to Judaism to a class of 33, using materials from the PBS Documentary "Heritage: Civilization and the Jews," Power-Point presentations, and the Blackboard electronic system.*

Chair, Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins, 2001-2002, year-long topic "On Location: How Do Martyrdoms Take Place? See the following URL:

<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/psco/year39/topic.shtml>

\*Designed and taught courses in non-University settings, including: Instructor, "From Moses to Moses: Early History of Judaism," Autumn '00, Gershman YMHA

\*Guest Instructor, Four Lecture Unit on Wisdom Literature for Core Biblical Civilization Course, February '01, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

**Professional Psychology** - Licensed Psychologist, Utah #430, in Private Practice

*1983-1989 Founded and directed Bridges Interfaith Center for Counseling and Psychological Services working with clergy of all faiths 1981-1985*

**Health Policy and Planning**

*Statistician with the Utah State Health Department of Health, wrote 11 juried policy and statistical papers in 13 months, 1985-1987*

**MEMBERSHIPS**

Society of Biblical Literature

Association for Jewish Studies

Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins

Hugoye-I , Aramaic-I, LXX-I, and G-Megillot electronic discussion lists

**RESEARCH PROGRAM**

The work on my dissertation, though limited to the consideration of one short text, has opened a new dimension in the consideration of Syriac literature, that of "Jewish Syriac," contrary to the common perception that Syriac is a Christian language.

For a follow-up study, I propose to look at a range of sources in Syriac that have Jewish features, sometimes already identified by other scholars. I will be arguing that the apple does not fall far from the tree—that is, that Jewish material implies a Syriac-speaking and –writing Jewish Community, for which this surviving material is the evidence. Some of the material I will use includes the translation and notes to an anonymous prose piece now called 7 Maccabees, and excerpts from anonymous *memre* on biblical topics published at various times by Sebastian Brock. There are pieces of the biblical Joseph Epic published in various places that will also be discussed. The argument will be an exercise in considering early Syriac literature and the presence of Jewish material without looking back through the accumulated mass of Christian literature in Syriac. Ultimately, I expect to deconstruct the argument and fold the dimension that I have opened back into that extraordinary mass of Syriac literature.

Also deriving from the work on my dissertation is the examination of the memorialization of the Maccabean martyrdoms in Judaism and Christianity. There is considerable information in scattered sources about this memorialization in Antioch. I hope soon to put this together with 6 Macc in a review and new interpretation.

**TEACHING INTERESTS AND ABILITIES**

**Survey Courses**

Introduction to Judaism

Introduction to Early Rabbinic Literature

History and literature of Judaism and Christianity in the Greco-Roman World

Early Judaism (Apocrypha, Pseudepigrapha, Dead Sea Scrolls, Babatha Archive)

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

Women in Monotheistic Religions of Late Antiquity

**Upper Level and Graduate Courses**

Judean Desert Materials: Wadi ed-Daliyeh papyri, Dead Sea Scrolls, Babatha Archive

The Study of Ancient Texts and Manuscripts

Pseudepigrapha

Mesopotamian Judaisms and Christianities of Late Antiquity

Rabbinic Traditions, Texts, and Contexts

Lady Wisdom, Wisdom Personified

History and Literature of Jews from Martha Shamoni (170 B.C.E.) to Babatha (135 C.E.)

**Language Courses**

Introduction to **Classical** Syriac

Classical Syriac Literature

Middle Aramaic

**Hebrew Bible**

Introduction to the Bible

Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible

Wisdom Literature

Biblical Poetry

**The Discipline of Religious Studies**

Religion and Psychology

**REFERENCES**

Robert A. Kraft, Professor of Religious Studies, Department of Religious Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 215-898-5827

E. Ann Matter, Professor of Religious Studies and Assistant Dean, School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania

Albert I. Baumgarten, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel

Additional references available upon request.