

Nathan E. Fleeson, PhD (He/Him)

EDUCATION:

PhD in Religion

Aug. 2018 – May 2023

The University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia

Major Concentration: Arts, Literature, and Religion

Minor Concentration: History of Christianity

Dissertation Title: “To Cuiviénen There Is No Return: English and American Fantasy Literature as a Second Hagiography”

Director: Dr. Carolyn M. Jones Medine

Committee: Dr. Sarah Bogue; Dr. Jonathan Evans; Dr. Wayne Coppins

Abstract: This project explores the ways that fan devotion to fantasy texts (like *Lord of the Rings*) can be compared to religious devotion to the Christian saints.

To do so, it offers an interdisciplinary perspective on Religious Theory, Literary Theory, Material Culture (including visual art, medieval manuscripts, and modern fanzines), Medieval Studies, Media Studies, African American Studies, and Queer Theory.

Approved: February 23, 2023

Certificates:

Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies

Director: Dr. Akela Reason

Master of Theological Studies

Aug. 2016 – May 2018

Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

Concentration: History, Scripture, and Tradition of Christianity

Thesis Title: “The Fall of Angelomorphic Pneumatology: A Theological History of Alexandria”

Director: Dr. Susan Hylan

Committee: Dr. David Pacini

Completed: April 24, 2018

Bachelor of Arts

Aug. 2013 – May 2016

The University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia

Major: Religion

Minor: Biology

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY – MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES:

Curatorial Intern, The University of Georgia – Georgia Museum of Art (Jan. 2022 – Apr. 2022)

Division of African American and African Diasporic Art

Exhibition Intern, Emory University – Pitts Theology Library (May 2021 – Aug. 2021)

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY – TEACHING:

Instructor-of-Record, The University of Georgia, (May 2020 – May 2023)

Courses:

RELI 4600: Religion and Literature

RELI 1003: Introduction to Religious Thought – *Percy Jackson* and Religion

Teaching Assistant – Writing Intensive Program, The University of Georgia, (Aug. 2018 – May 2020)

Courses:

Spring 2020: RELI 4300: Islam and Its World

Fall 2019: RELI 4611: Canon

RELI 4600/AFAM 4250: Religion and African American Literature – Toni Morrison

Spring 2019: AFAM 2000H: Introduction to African American Studies

Fall 2018: RELI 4600: Religion and Literature – CS Lewis and JRR Tolkien

RELI 4303: The Sufi Way

Colloquy Leader, Emory University – Candler School of Theology, (Aug. – Dec. 2017)

Course: HC 501: History of Early Christian Thought

Substitute Teacher, Gwinnett County Public Schools, (Sep. 2016 – May 2017)

SELECTED MUSEUM AND LIBRARY EXHIBITIONS:

Curatorial Intern, *A Decade of Tradition: Highlights from the Larry D. and Brenda A. Thompson Collection of African American Art*. Georgia Museum of Art, Jun. 11, 2022 – Jul. 3, 2023.

Curatorial Intern, *Call and Response: A Visual Response to Carrie Mae Weems: The Usual Suspects*. Georgia Museum of Art, May 21 – Aug. 7, 2022.

Curator, *Not All Vampires are Evil*. Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Dec. 2021 – Jul. 2022.

Digital Curator, “*My Eyes Beheld an Eerie Sight*”: *The Place of Monsters in Theology*. Pitts Theology Library.

SELECTED MUSEUM AND LIBRARY EDUCATION PROJECTS:

“Lou Stovall: Of Land and Origins, Honoring the 2022 Larry D. and Brenda A. Thompson Award Recipient,” Artist Introductory Video. Georgia Museum of Art, 2022.

“Sewers and Religious Reform,” Blog Post. The University of Georgia, English Department, 2021.

“Saints in the Museum Context,” Gallery Tour. Georgia Museum of Art, 2021.

“Paul Cadmus’s *Shells and Figure*,” Daily Inspiration Instagram Post, Georgia Museum of Art, 2021.

“Public Art Walking Tour,” Digital Walking Tour. The University of Georgia, 2020.

“Slavery at the University of Georgia: Broad Street,” Campus Tour Stop. The University of Georgia, 2019.

“The 1559 Beza Novum D. N. Iesu Christi Testamentum and the Reformation,” Presentation. Pitts Theology Library, 2017.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

FORTHCOMING BOOKS:

Fleeson, Nathan E. and Carolyn M. Jones Medine, eds. *Theology and the Riordanverse*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books and Fortress Academic.

FORTHCOMING CHAPTERS AND ARTICLES:

Fleeson, Nathan E. 2023. “‘Not Built as a Shrine, but as a Sacred Space’: The Devotional Nature of Museums Dedicated to Candidates for Sainthood.” *Material Religion: The Journal of Objects, Art and Belief* 19, no. 4 (2023).

Fleeson, Nathan E. “‘Remember What It’s Like to Be Human’: Finding Humanity in Fantasy Grief.” In *Theology and the Riordanverse*, edited by **Nathan Fleeson** and Carolyn M. Jones Medine. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books and Fortress Academic.

CHAPTERS AND ARTICLES UNDER REVIEW:

Fleeson, Nathan E. “Fandom and the Cult of the Saints as Alternate Religious Networks: Fanzines and Books of Hours.” *The Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*.

PRESENTATIONS:

PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS:

“Fantasy Literature: A Hagiography for the Modern World,” American Academy of Religion, *Hagiology Seminar: Constructing (and Deconstructing) the Holy* (Nov. 2021– Delayed from Nov. 2020).

“The Cult of Fantasy Heroes: The Religious Community of Fandom,” South Atlantic Modern Language Association, *Networked Non-Fiction Panel* (Nov. 2021).

“The Deaths of Fantasy Characters as Sites of Collective Healing,” Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion, *Collective Healing Through Media Panel* (Mar. 2021).

“C. S. Lewis’s Reimagining of the Judas Scene in *The Voyage of St. Brendan*,” South Atlantic Modern Language Association, *English, Medieval Panel* (Nov. 2020).

“The Exorcism of Mary Magdalene and the Power of Former Demoniacs,” Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion, *New Testament Panel* (Mar. 2020).

“Bede’s Use of Hagiography in Developing an English Identity,” South Atlantic Modern Language Association, *English, Medieval Panel* (Nov. 2019).

INVITED PRESENTATIONS:

“Death and Free Will in the Works of J. R. R. Tolkien.” Guest Speaker for FYOS 1001 (Religion and *The Fellowship of the Ring*), University of Georgia, Athens, GA (Apr. 2022).

“Just War Theory in Culture.” Guest Speaker for RELI 4/6530 (Theology and Culture), University of Georgia, Athens, GA (Nov. 2018).

SERVICE:

Merit Badge Counselor (Archaeology, Genealogy, American Cultures, and Theater), Boy Scouts USA (2020 – present)

Lighting Designer, *Loving God Boldly Together (The LGBT Church Play)*, the University of Georgia, New Georgia Group Grant and Thalian Blackfriars (dir. and written by Caro Caden) (Nov. – Dec. 2022)

Lighting Operator, Gwinnett Church (2018 – 2021)

Panel Chair, South Atlantic Modern Language Association, *English I, Medieval* (2020 – 2021)

Panel Co-Chair, South Atlantic Modern Language Association, *English I, Medieval* (2019)

Convener, Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities Symposium Convener, University of Georgia Honors College (Apr. 2019)

Production Associate – Lighting, BigStuf Ministries (Summer 2016, 2017)

Lighting Operator, Athens Church (2015 – 2016)

Intern, BigStuf Ministries (Summer 2015)

GRANTS / FELLOWSHIPS / AWARDS:

Religion Department Assistantship, Awarded by the University of Georgia (Aug. 2020 – May 2023)

Summer Dissertation Research Grant (for the purpose of researching illuminated Books of Hours and contemporary fanzines), Awarded by the University of Georgia (Summer 2022)

Annual Meeting Travel Grant, Awarded by the American Academy of Religion (2021)

George Mills Harper Graduate Student Travel Fund Award, Awarded by the South Atlantic Modern Language Association (2020)

Writing Intensive Program Assistantship, Awarded by the University of Georgia (Aug. 2018 – May 2020)

Master of Theological Studies Scholarship, Awarded by Emory University, Candler School of Theology (Aug. 2016 – May 2018)

Zell Miller Scholarship, Awarded by the University of Georgia (Aug. 2013 – May 2016)

Airgas Family Scholarship, Awarded by Airgas, an Air Liquide company (Aug. 2013 – May 2016)

Clarice Bagwell Eagle Scout Scholarship, Awarded by the Northeast Georgia Council, BSA (Aug. 2013 – May 2014)

LANGUAGE ABILITY:

Latin—Advanced Reading Knowledge

Ancient Greek—Intermediate Reading Knowledge

Old English—Intermediate Reading Knowledge

French—Basic Reading Knowledge

German—Basic Reading Knowledge