

Matthieu PIGNOT

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CURRENT POSITION

Since October 2016: Research Assistant for the ERC project *The Cult of Saints: a Christendom-wide study of its origins, spread and development*, History Faculty, University of Oxford (Principal Investigator: Bryan Ward-Perkins). In charge of collecting, analysing and inputting Latin literary evidence into the electronic database.

EDUCATION

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| University of Oxford (October 2012- November 2016) | D. Phil in History, thesis submitted on 2 August 2016, passed viva examination on 8 November 2016. Examiners: Carol Harrison and Mark Humphries. Thesis title: "The catechumenate in late antique Africa: Augustine of Hippo, his contemporaries and early reception (ca. 360-530 AD)". Supervisors: Conrad Leyser and Neil McLynn. |
| Università degli Studi di Padova (April-June 2014) | History Faculty Erasmus Study Exchange Coordinators: Nicholas Davidson (Oxford) and Maria Cristina La Rocca (Padova) |
| University of Oxford (October 2011-June 2012) | Master of Studies in Late Antiquity and Byzantine Studies with Distinction (special subjects: late antique and byzantine history and archaeology, hagiography, palaeography) |
| Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes (November 2008-June 2011) | Research Master in Ancient Mediterranean and Near-Eastern Studies (<i>Master Recherche en Antiquité méditerranéenne et proche-orientale: langues, histoire, religions</i>). Master 1: "The <i>Institutiones</i> of Cassiodorus" (supervisor: Martine Dulaey); Master 2: "The catechumenate during late Antiquity in Italy" with Distinction / <i>Mention très bien</i> (supervisor: Michel-Yves Perrin) |
| Institut National des Langues Orientales (September 2008-June 2011) | Diploma (<i>Diplôme Pratique</i>) of Quechua with Distinction / <i>Mention très bien</i> |

Université Catholique de Louvain Bachelor's degree in History (*Bachelier en Histoire*)
(September 2005-September 2008) with Distinction

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Bursary from The Classical Association (UK) for a stay at the Fondation Hardt, Switzerland (May 2016)

Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research travel and accommodation grant for the Princeton-Oxford-Vienna Graduate Exchange workshop (June 2015)

Visiting scholarship at the Villa Cagnola, Gazzada Schianno (VA), Italy, for the “XXXVI settimana europea - Storia religiosa Euro-Mediterranea – Africa. Il Maghreb nella storia religiosa di Cristianesimo e Islam” (2-6 September 2014)

Oxford History Faculty Arnold Fund Grant toward Travel and Research for archival research in northern Italy (July 2014)

Erasmus Grant for Study Exchange with the University of Padua (March 2014)

St Cross College Travel and Research Fund for archival research in northern and central Italy (Venice, Tolentino, Verona) (February 2014)

Worcester College Prize for Distinction in University Examinations (June 2012)

Travel and accommodation grant from the University of St Andrews for the St Andrews/ Oxford Masters Student Exchange Conference (June 2012)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND SEMINAR PAPERS

“The mysterious origins of saint Torpes’ cult”, in the *Cult of Saints* session entitled “Grey-zone saints in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages, *International Medieval Congress*, Leeds, UK (July 2017)

“Defining the Community of Believers: the Catechumenate as a Process of Inclusion and Exclusion”, international workshop entitled *Inclusion and Exclusion in the Late Antique and Early Medieval Mediterranean*, Emory University, Atlanta GA, USA (11 March 2017)

“Le catéchuménat en Afrique et en Italie au tournant du sixième siècle” in the research seminar *Histoire et doctrines du Christianisme latin (antiquité tardive)* convened by M.-Y. Perrin, Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Sorbonne, Paris, France (3 June 2016)

“Alterità religiosa e discorsi polemici: l'esempio dell'iniziazione cristiana nel *De fide et operibus* di Agostino d'Ippona (413 d.C.)”, *La Construzione Culturale dell'Alterità Religiosa nel Mediterraneo Tardo Antico (sec. IV-IX)*, Dipartimento di Scienze Storiche, Geografiche e dell'Antichità, Università degli Studi di Padova, Italy (25-26 May 2016)

“Questioning Christian baptism: insights from Augustine’s correspondence”, *Late Roman Seminar*, Corpus Christi College, Oxford, UK (12 November 2015)

“The catechumenate in pseudo-epigraphic sermons from late antique Africa”, Workshop: “Becoming Christian in the late antique West (3rd-6th centuries)”, *XVII. International Conference on Patristic Studies*, Oxford, UK (11 August 2015)

“The Forgotten Majority: Catechumens and Changing Categorisation in Late Antique Christianity”, Princeton – Oxford – Vienna – Berlin – Mainz Graduate Exchange: “*Late Rome, Byzantium, and the Early Medieval West*”, Vienna, Austria (1 June 2015)

Le catéchuménat d’Augustin d’après son propre témoignage” in the research seminar *Histoire et doctrines du Christianisme latin (antiquité tardive)* convened by M.-Y. Perrin, Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Sorbonne, Paris, France (28 November 2014)

“Il catecumenato in Africa e in Italia dal quarto secolo” in the doctoral seminar “*Seminario annuale di discussione delle ricerche dei Dottorandi*”, Scuola superiore di Studi Storici, Geografici e Antropologici (Verona, Padova, Venezia), Canazei (TN), Italy (21 June 2014)

“La première phase du catéchuménat chez Augustin”, in the research seminar *Histoire et doctrines du Christianisme latin (antiquité tardive)* convened by M.-Y. Perrin, Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Sorbonne, Paris, France (31 May 2013)

“Social tensions around baptism in Augustine’s writings” at Princeton – Oxford – Vienna Postgraduate Exchange 2013: “*The Transformation of Elites*”, Oxford, UK (18 May 2013)

“Religious elites and transformation: Christian initiation and baptism in Augustine’s writings”, *Late Roman Seminar*, Corpus Christi College, Oxford, UK (7 February 2013)

“Conversion narratives in early Italian *Passiones*” at St Andrews/Oxford Masters Student Exchange Conference: “Pagans, Heretics and Outcasts: ‘The Other’ in the Middle Ages”, St Andrews, UK (12 June 2012)

WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS ORGANISED

Workshop: “Becoming Christian in the late antique West (3rd – 6th centuries) with A. Bodin and C. Gerzaguët for the *XVII. International Conference on Patristic Studies* (Oxford, 10 August – 14 August 2015)

Medieval Latin reading group, with G. Zamore, University of Oxford, History Faculty: “Augustine and games”; “Augustine on curiosity” (October 2014 – March 2015)

SKILLS

LANGUAGES

French, Italian: native speaker

English, German: fluent

Quechua: proficient

Dutch, Portuguese, Spanish: basic knowledge

Latin: advanced

Ancient Greek: intermediate reading skills

OTHER SKILLS

Close acquaintance with historiography, methodologies in history, specialist literature and primary sources in my field (literary, hagiographical, epigraphic, liturgical, legal)

Advanced knowledge of Latin palaeography and manuscript culture: tutorials on “Latin Palaeography” with J. Willoughby and on “Medieval books and libraries” with R. Sharpe at the University of Oxford; intensive one-week training at the Paris Institute for Research and History of Texts (IRHT - CNRS) in October 2016

Excellent command of epigraphic methods and research: seminars of Roman epigraphy with F. Van Haepere at Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium) and Byzantine epigraphy with D. Feissel at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes (Sorbonne, Paris)

Excellent IT skills: computer systems, web browsers, Microsoft Office (including Excel and Access), Refworks, FileMaker

Extended experience in heuristics, online research tools and digital humanities: Library catalogues, Google Scholar, JSTOR, TD Net, International Medieval bibliography, Dissertation abstracts on-line, ProQuest, Brepolis Databases, Patrologia Latina Database, DHGE, etc.

Experience in quantitative research: training in “Quantitative Methods” with C. Bruneel at Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2015-2016 (January – March), University of Oxford, Classics Faculty, St Anne’s College: in charge of designing and teaching a course on late antique religion for an undergraduate visiting student of the Junior Year Abroad Programme

2015-2016 (October – January), University of Oxford, History Faculty, Worcester College: Enhanced Lectureship in History for the Finals Undergraduate Special Subject “Augustine and the last days of Rome (350-395)”

2014-2015 (October – March), University of Oxford, Classics Faculty: in charge of the Finals Undergraduate paper (Classics and Modern languages, Literae Humaniores) “The Conversion of Augustine” (*sabbatical leave cover*)

2013-2014 (October – December), University of Oxford, History Faculty: training as co-tutor for the Finals Undergraduate Special Subject “Augustine and the last days of Rome (350-395)”

Completed the Preparation for Learning and Teaching (October 2013) and Developing Learning and Teaching (December 2014) training programmes of the Oxford Learning Institute leading to Associate Fellowship at the Higher Education Academy, UK

April 2013, Oxford Exclusif Tutorial Agency: 16 hours of tuition in History for a student preparing the 1st year International Baccalaureate programme (Causes, practices and effects of war; European diplomacy and the origins of the first World War)

November 2012 to June 2015: private tuition in French, Latin, British History and English as foreign language (Oxford, UK)

June 2004 – September 2008: Homework school (teaching in Mathematics, Physics, Languages, Latin and History) at the Commune d’Ixelles (Brussels, Belgium)

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

July 2014 – August 2015: editing assistant for the book of Robin Lane Fox, *Augustine: Conversions and Confessions* (London, 2015)

July 2013: student helper for the Faculty of History, University of Oxford

March – May 2012: Language Helper (OPAL French Basic) at the Oxford Language Centre

July 2011: translation from French into Italian of parts of the Website *YouSeeMii.fr* specialised in e-reputation.

August – September 2010: translation from French into German of four lectures presenting research from the book of Michel-Yves Perrin, *Civitas confusionis. Recherches sur la participation des fidèles aux controverses doctrinales dans l’Antiquité Tardive (III^e s. - c. 430)* (forthcoming), given from 20th to 23rd September 2010 at the *Institut für Religionswissenschaft*, University of Bremen, for the seminar “Häresie vs Orthodoxie: eine christliche Spezialität?”

List of Publications

a) Articles in journals with peer review:

“Questioning Christian baptism: insights from Augustine’s correspondence”, *Revue d’Histoire Ecclésiastique* 111/3-4 (2016) (in print)

b) Proceedings of symposia, workshops, colloquia:

“Becoming Christian in the late antique West (3rd-6th centuries): Introduction” with A. Bodin and C. Gerzaguët, *Studia Patristica* (forthcoming in 2017)

“The catechumenate in anonymous sermons from the late antique West” in Bodin, A., Gerzaguët, C., Pignot, M., (eds.), *Becoming Christian in the Late Antique West (3rd-6th centuries): Discourses and Practices*, workshop held at the XVIIth International Conference on Patristic Studies, 10-14 August 2015, *Studia Patristica* (forthcoming in 2017)

Bodin, A., Gerzaguët, C., Pignot, M., (eds.), *Becoming Christian in the Late Antique West (3rd-6th centuries): Discourses and Practices*, workshop held at the XVIIth International Conference on Patristic Studies, 10-14 August 2015, *Studia Patristica* (forthcoming in 2017)

c) Thesis:

The catechumenate in late antique Africa: Augustine, his contemporaries and early reception (ca. 360-530 AD), DPhil Thesis in History, University of Oxford, 2016, 297p.

d) Book review:

Daniel L. Schwartz, *Paideia and Cult: Christian Initiation in Theodore of Mopsuestia. Hellenic Studies, 57.* (Washington, DC: Center for Hellenic Studies, Trustees for Harvard University, 2013) in *Bulletin de l’Association pour l’Antiquité Tardive* 2013, p. 80.

Statement of research

As a post-doctoral researcher within the project *The Cult of Saints: a Christendom-wide study of its origins, spread and development*, I first plan to focus on Latin literary hagiographical accounts written in Italy. The evidence mostly consists of epic *Passiones*, a widespread literary genre narrating in a novel-like style the trial and death of early Christian martyrs, generally during the great persecutions of the first centuries of Christianity. In addition, there are a small number of *vitae*, narrating the lives of saints, often written by close contemporaries. The first step is to collect the evidence from Italy falling within the chronological range of the project by going through repertories of texts like *Clavis Patrum Latinorum* and *Bibliotheca Hagiographica Latina*. Cross-checking repertories will make it possible to include the widest possible range of evidence in the database, superseding existing repertories. The objective will then be to provide a summary of each text together with a discussion of it, including considerations on manuscripts preserved, existing editions and studies, dating of the text and major issues relating to the cult of saints found in the text. This overview will be achieved through an attentive perusal of each text and a careful consideration of specialised literature on the subject. This research will make it possible to compare texts to reach a wider understanding of the genre within Italy, and more broadly it will be essential to provide a basis for comparison with other evidence collected in the database from other regions and in other languages. Beyond the study of hagiographical evidence from Italy, I also plan to work on other Latin evidence of cult. As I have developed an extensive expertise in Latin sermons, liturgical and legal evidence during my studies, I would be particularly keen to investigate this type of evidence within the project. Another essential area of search which I would be eager to cover are calendars and martyrologies and notably the *Martyrologium Hieronymianum*, the most important available martyrology which brings together a number of old calendars and dates from the seventh century in its preserved form. Inputting evidence from this martyrology into the database will be crucial to bring together evidence that is scattered across regions and languages.

In parallel to work for the database, I will also publish articles on Latin hagiography. I am currently working on the study of an obscure saint, Torpes of Pisa, which I will discuss at the Leeds International Medieval Congress in July 2017. This saint is known to be venerated in Pisa in Northern Italy through a late antique *Passio*, although the development of his cult in Spain requires further investigation. Moreover, I have already completed research for an article on the catechumenate in Italian *Passiones* to be published this year. This article will show that hagiography provides an essential complement to the study of the catechumenate in late antiquity, as it contains rare references to liturgical practices which are otherwise only attested in sermons and later medieval liturgical texts.

Another essential aspect of research conducted for the project will be to exchange ideas and information with other specialists and raise awareness of the project across academic networks and the broader public. In the past months, I have already initiated contacts with researchers notably in Belgium and France, sharing research with Guy Philippart in Brussels and Cécile Lanéry in Paris, and benefiting from the library facilities of the Bollandists in Brussels, who are major specialists of hagiography. As a post-doctoral research for the project, I plan to further enhance these links, in particular with the Bollandists, to reach wider collaboration.