



Department of History

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Dr. Eric Fournier

Assistant Professor of History



Brief Biography:

Born and raised in Québec, Canada, Eric Fournier completed his dissertation at the University of California, Santa Barbara on “Victor of Vita and the Vandal “Persecution”: Interpreting Exile in Late Antiquity” in August 2008. Prior to his doctoral program at UCSB, Dr. Fournier completed his M.A. in ancient history and B.A. in classics and history, both at Université de Montréal (Canada). He has presented numerous papers at national conferences and published recent articles in the field of late antique history. Dr. Fournier presently works at preparing his dissertation for publication. He is a hockey fan and was an alpine skiing instructor for ten years.

Teaching Interests:

Ancient and Medieval European history, Late Antiquity, Germanic kingdoms, Christianization of the ancient world, ancient Mediterranean religions, history through movies, and historiography.

Research Interests:

Claims of persecution in Late Antiquity, North African Christianity, the role of rhetoric in historiographical representations of “reality”, Imperial/Royal courts and residences of the late antique and medieval world, interactions between Church and ‘state’ in the late Roman world.

Honors/Awards:

UCSB History Department Richard K. Mayberry Award for overall scholarly excellence (June 2008), UCSB Graduate Division Dissertation Fellowship (Fall 2007), UCSB History Department Regent’s Dissertation Research Fellowship (Fall 2006), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Doctoral Fellowship (2001-2005).

Publications:

“The Adventus of Julian at Sirmium: The Literary Construction of Historical Reality in Ammianus Marcellinus.” In *Religion and Rhetoric in Late Antiquity: Festschrift in Honor of Harold A. Drake*, eds. B. Frakes, et al. Forthcoming.

“St. Possidius,” “St. Optatus”, “Synesius of Cyrene,” and “Victor of Vita.” In *Dictionary of African Biography*, eds. H.L. Gates, Jr. and E. Akyeampong. New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

“The Fall of the West Roman Empire and Emergence of Successor States,” and “The Fall of Rome: Destruction or Transformation?” In *ABC-Clio Encyclopedia of World History*, vol. 8: *Expanding Regional Civilizations (300-1000 CE)*, ed. W. Bisson. Oxford: ABC-Clio, forthcoming.

Book Review of “[*Histoire de la littérature grecque chrétienne, 1. Introduction. Initiations aux Pères de l’Église*](#) by E. Norelli and B. Pouderon.” *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (2009).

“Exiled Bishops in the Christian Empire: Victims of Imperial Violence?” In *Violence in Late Antiquity. Perceptions and Practices*, ed. H.A. Drake, 157-66. London: Ashgate Publishing, 2006.

Book Review of “[*Ammianus Marcellinus: The Allusive Historian*](#) by G. Kelly.” *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (2008).

Book Review of “*Family, Friends and Followers. Political and Social Bonds in Early Medieval Europe* by G. Althoff.” *Comitatus* 36 (2005), 185-187.

Book Review of “*Charlemagne. Father of a Continent* by A. Barbero.,” *Comitatus* 36 (2005):187-88.

“Les Origines d’un atelier monétaire itinérant : Réflexions à partir des cas de Trèves, Milan & Sirmium (3e-5e siècles),” *Mouseion* 2 (2002): 245-61.

“Ammien Marcellin et les procès d’Antioche de 371/372 de notre ère : Un cas de persécution religieuse?” *Hirundo, the McGill Journal of Classical Studies* 1 (Winter 2002): 37-45.

Book Review of “*Constantine and the Bishops. The Politics of Intolerance* by H.A. Drake.” *Mouseion* 2 (2002): 407-10.

Presentations:

“The Legal Construction of ‘Orthodoxy’ in Vandal Africa” at the North American Patristics Society, Chicago, IL, May 22, 2009.

“Rebaptism as a Ritual of Cultural Integration in Vandal Africa” at the Eighth Bi-Annual Shifting Frontiers in Late Antiquity Conference, Bloomington, IN, April 3, 2009.

“Writing History From Hagiography: The Case of Victor of Vita” at the North American Patristics Society, Chicago, IL, May 23, 2008.

“Augustine’s Influence on the Framing of the Vandal Persecution” at the North American Patristics Society, Chicago IL, May 26, 2006.

“Nunc est persequendum—or Seeking out the Persecution in Vandal Africa” at the American Philological Association, Montreal, Canada, January 8, 2006.

“‘The Pump Don’t Work ‘Cause the Vandals Took the Handle’: Seeking Out Persecution in Vandal Africa” at the 30th Patristics, Medieval and Renaissance Conference, Villanova University PA, October 14, 2005.

“Use and Abuse of the Secular Arm: The Exile of Bishops in Late Antiquity (c. 300-600 C.E.)” at the Dislocation: Writing Exile/Migrancy/Nomadism/Border Crossing, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada, May 7, 2005.

“The New Lords of the Empire: The Fellowship of the Bishops – The Exile of Bishops in Gregory of Tours” at the American Historical Association, Washington DC, January 11, 2004.

“Exiled Bishops and Clergymen in the Christian Empire: Victims of Imperial Violence?” at the Fifth Bi-Annual Shifting Frontiers in Late Antiquity Conference, Santa Barbara CA, March 22, 2003.

“Quid imperatori est cum ecclesia? (Optatus, Contra Donat. 3.3): Exiling Bishops and Clergymen in the Christian Empire” at the North American Patristics Society, Loyola University, Chicago IL, May 24, 2002.

Memberships:

American Historical Association

American Philological Association

Classical Association of Canada

North American Patristics Society
