CURRICULUM VITAE

Chris PreJean, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., 2021 University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (Arabic)
Dissertation: *The Hermeneutical Christian in Ḥanbalī Thought*

M.A., 2016 University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (Arabic)

B.A., 2013 The King's University
Theological Studies
Honors: *Summa cum laude*

HONORS

2022 Fellow, Haifa Center for Mediterranean History
2022 Certificate for Engagement, Common Humanity and Love in Interreligious Dialogue, Al-Asil Association for Education, Culture, and Development
2022 Christian-Muslim Relations Roundtable Discussion, Department of Arabic Language and Literature, École Normale Supérieure, Muhammad V University, Rabat
2021 Fulbright Postdoctoral Award, University of Haifa
2019 Certificate of Recognition, Kindness in the Abrahamic Faiths, Qadi Iyad Foundation
2019 Certificate of Participation, African International Institute for Peace, Morocco
2019 Certificate for Engagement, Interreligious Dialogue, Al-Asil Association for Education, Culture, and Development, Boujaad, Morocco
2018 Participation, JewsEast, Center for Religious Studies (CERES), Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany
2013 Outstanding Baccalaureate Scholar Graduate, The King's University
2013 *Summa cum laude*, Theological Studies, The King's University

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Fulbright Scholar **2021–2023**
University of Haifa
Total Award: $80,000
Led cross-cultural workshops on interviewing, career advancement, and professional networking; lectured in Arabic and English

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship **2018**
U.S. Department of Education, Center for Near Eastern Studies,
University of California, Los Angeles
Total Award: $22,000

Sara and Chaskel Research Grant **2018**
Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies,
University of California, Los Angeles

Bluma Appel Research Innovation Grant **2017**
Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies,
University of California, Los Angeles

Andrew Mellon Award **2014**
Near Eastern Languages and Cultures,
University of California, Los Angeles
Four-year fellowship
Total Award: $100,000

Greg O. Brantley Memorial Fellowship **2013**
Near Eastern Languages, The King's University
Total Award: $10,000

MEDIA AND PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Understanding Shariah: Its Sources, History, and Tensions **2026**
ThinkChristian, The Center for Christian Thought and Ethics, Oct. 13

Fulbright 70th Anniversary, Israel **2026**
Fulbright Israel Magazine, 70th anniversary issue

Fulbright and Israel Blog Series **2025**
The Times of Israel blogs, travelogue

Covenantal Pluralism and Religious Literacy in Morocco **2024**
Religion and Global Society, The London School of Economics and Political Science, January 26

A Christian's Surprising Insights on Islam **2024**
Podcast guest, *Thoughtful Minds*, Episode I, September 6

Angels in Islam **2024**
Podcast guest, *The Exorcist Files* (No. 1 Spotify Religion & Spirituality podcast; more than 7.5 million downloads), March 5

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Multi-Faith Neighbors Network **2025–present**
Center for Public Faith, Washington, D.C.
Chief Curriculum Architect
Designed and planned the six-week, cohort-based course *Faith and Public Life*, including its learning framework, design logic, facilitator manual, and training guide
One curriculum for four partner organizations, developed through more than twelve versions with a fourteen-person review panel, for print and digital delivery, with a roadmap for ten countries

Fulbright Israel Interest Group **2023–present**
Fulbright Association
President of the Board
Board development, advocacy, and public programming

Study of Religions Across Civilizations (SORAC) **2019–2024**
Georgetown University
Interim Executive Director (2024)
Program development and cross-cultural events
Lead: Paul Heck, Professor of Theology and Islamic Studies, Georgetown University

St. Catherine's Sinai Manuscript Portal **2022–2023**
University of California, Los Angeles
Researcher of Christian Arabic Manuscripts
Principal Investigator: Dawn Childress
Transcribed colophons, described manuscripts, and translated texts

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Instructor, World Religions (scheduled) **Spring 2027**
Department of Theological Studies
The King's University

Instructor, ESL 301 High-Intermediate Writing and Communication **2018–2020**
Four courses for international students
Department of English
University of California, Los Angeles

Instructor, ESL 25 Academic Reading and Writing **2019**
Two sections
Department of English
University of California, Los Angeles

Instructor, Arabic 1A **2018**
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures
University of California, Los Angeles
Supervisor: Azza Ahmed

Instructor, ESL 22 Public Speaking and ESL 26 Business Communication **2018**
Department of English
University of California, Los Angeles
Supervisor: Jeremy Kelley

Instructor, Jerusalem: Holy City **2017**
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures
University of California, Los Angeles

Guest Lecturer, History of the Middle East, 500–1200 CE **2017**
Topics: The fragmentation of the Islamic empire in the 3rd/9th century; Intellectual and religious currents of the early Abbasid period; The Islamic empire in the late 2nd/8th century; Conflicts among Muslims
Department of History
University of California, Los Angeles
Instructor: Dr. Michael Morony

Guest Lecturer, Visible Language: The Study of Writing **2017**
Topic: The development of the Arabic script
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures
University of California, Los Angeles
Instructor: Dr. Jeremy Smoak

Guest Lecturer, The Origins of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam **2017**
Topic: Muhammad and the early believers
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures
University of California, Los Angeles
Instructor: Dr. Peter Lanfer

Co-Instructor, The Emergence of Islam **2015**
Department of Theological Studies
The King's University
Instructor: Dr. Michael Gregg

Teaching Fellow, University of California, Los Angeles **2015–2021**
Sections of 10 to 200 students; trained teaching assistant cohorts
Women and Power in the Ancient World
Jerusalem: Holy City
International Intervention in Ethnic and Civil Conflicts of the Middle East
Introduction to Islam
History of the Middle East, 500–1200 CE (Reader)
Origins of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
Making and Studying the Modern Middle East

TEACHING DEVELOPMENT

Workshop Leader, 46th Annual Teaching Assistant Conference **2019**
Center for Instructional Excellence, UCLA
Panel: "Cheating, Grade Complaints, and Disruptive Behavior" [Panel Member]

Arabic Subtitling and Translation **2018**

English as a Second Language Pedagogy **2018**

Arabic Language Pedagogy (UCLA Course) **2017**

EDITORIAL & CONSULTING ACTIVITIES

The Pew Charitable Trusts, Religion Program **2026**
Advisor (informal)
Advised on learning and evaluation planning for Multi-Faith Neighbors Network programs

Antisemitism in Muslim Societies **2026**
Moderator

Fulbright Israel **2022**
Scholarship Application Reviewer

King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies (KFCRIS) **2019–2021**
Project Manager and Editor
Gallery labels, Al-Faisal Museum for Arab-Islamic Art
Translations for KFCRIS publications; calligraphic gift to the Prince of Wales

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ministry of Culture **2019–2020**
Editor and Translator
Project manager, translator, and reviewer for the Arabic-to-English 2019 report (400 pages, team of seven)
Report on the State of Culture, 2020: Digitalization of Culture
Report on the State of Culture, 2019
Archived at New York University

PUBLICATIONS

CHAPTERS, ENCYCLOPEDIAS, AND REVIEWS

PreJean, C. (2022). Baghdad in the Mediterranean world. In H. Klemettilä-McHale (Ed.), *Windows into the medieval Mediterranean 470–1350*. Taylor and Francis.

PreJean, C. (2022). Hanbalism. In *Database of Religious History*. University of British Columbia. https://religiondatabase.org/browse/1250/

PreJean, C. (2021). Aḥmad ibn Muḥammad ibn Hārūn Abū Bakr al-Khallāl al-Ḥanbalī al-Baghdādī. In D. Thomas, A. Mallett, J. P. Monferrer-Sala, J. Pahlitzsch, B. Roggema, M. Swanson, H. Teule, & J. Tolan (Eds.), *Christian-Muslim relations 600–1500*. Brill. https://doi.org/10.1163/1877-8054_cmri_COM_25935

PreJean, C. (2021). Abū Bakr al-Khallāl. In B. Roggema & A. Cuffel (Eds.), *Jewish-Christian relations from the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean: A source history (600–1800)*. ARC Humanities Press.

PreJean, C. (2019). Abū Bakr al-Khallāl. In J. Meri (Ed.), *Medieval Islamic civilization: An encyclopedia* (Online ed.). Routledge.

PreJean, C. (2019). [Review of the book *Between Christ and caliph: Law, marriage, and Christian community in early Islam*, by L. Weitz]. *Comitatus: A Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 50*, 243–248. https://doi.org/10.1353/cjm.2019.0009

TRANSLATIONS

King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies. (2022). *Asfār: Treasures of King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies* (C. PreJean, Trans.) [Exhibition]. Al-Faisal Museum for Arab-Islamic Art, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. https://oldfaisal.kfcris.com/en/view/103

King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies. (2022). *A narrative of Arab-Islamic civilization* (C. PreJean, Ed. & Trans.; E. Stecher, Trans.) [Permanent exhibition; gallery texts and artifact cards; Arabic title: *Sardiyyat al-ḥaḍāra al-ʿArabiyya al-Islāmiyya*]. Al-Faisal Museum for Arab-Islamic Art, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. https://www.kfcris.com/museums

Kashgari, H. (2021, October). *The parade of mummies: A symbolic reading of simulation in historical events* (C. PreJean, Trans.) [Commentaries]. King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies. https://oldfaisal.kfcris.com/en/view/post/353

Ministry of Culture, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. (2021). *Report on the state of culture in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2020: Digitalization of culture* (C. PreJean, Ed. & Trans.; H. Adney, M. Courtney, A. Kaplan, C. Piraino, T. Poonawala, & E. Stecher, Trans.) [C. PreJean, project manager]. https://cdn.nyu.manifoldapp.org/store/resource/c/b/e/cbe0dec2-4b78-425a-aa03-3ab6fc9754ef/attachment/0db1ca7aa3732234ebe54fad28c4baca.pdf

Al-Khayoun, R. (2020, December). *An Iranian jurisprudential campaign: To silence Grand Ayatollah al-Haydari* (C. PreJean, Ed. & Trans.; E. Stecher, Trans.) [Commentaries]. King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies. https://oldfaisal.kfcris.com/en/view/post/314

Ministry of Culture, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. (2020). *Report on the state of culture in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2019: Facts and figures* (C. PreJean, Ed. & Trans.; H. Adney, M. Courtney, A. Kaplan, & E. Stecher, Trans.) [C. PreJean, project manager]. https://cdn.nyu.manifoldapp.org/store/resource/9/e/9/9e9061c8-1759-4209-9f5a-d84de34c44f6/attachment/8728376e66374e2ebb3eb7ecc0360872.pdf

WORKS IN PROGRESS

PreJean, C. (2026). *The Muslim way and Christian witness* [Manuscript accepted for publication]. Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

PreJean, C. (2026). *Experiencing Shariah* [Manuscript submitted for publication]. *ThinkChristian*.

PreJean, C. (Trans.). (in preparation). *Non-Muslim religious communities* [Manuscript in preparation for submission to Liverpool University Press].

Akhtar, I., & **PreJean, C.** (in preparation). *The covenantal waqf and neighborhood trust*.

PRESENTATIONS

INVITED LECTURES AND TRAININGS

Invited Trainer, Texas Baptists **2026**
Topic: Understanding Shariah

Invited Lecturer, The Haifa Center for Mediterranean History **2022**
Topic: Islamic law and the interpretive non-Muslim
University of Haifa, Haifa, Israel, March 15

Invited Lecturer (in Arabic), Sharqawi Sufi Order **2022**
Topic: Beyond tolerance: Muslims and Christians in a global world. Bob Roberts as a case study
Al-Asil Association for Education, Culture, and Development, Abī al-Jaʿd, Morocco

Invited Lecturer (in Arabic), École Normale Supérieure **2022**
Topic: The purpose of the Word of God for Evangelicals
Rabat, Morocco

Invited Lecturer, Sharqawi Sufi Order **2019**
Topic: The stories of Cain, Abel, and the Israelites: The love and loyalty of God
Al-Asil Association for Education, Culture, and Development, in conjunction with the African International Institute for Peace, Boujaad, Morocco

Invited Lecturer, Qadi Iyad Foundation **2019**
Topics: Goodness in the Gospel of Matthew; Scholarly companionship in multi-faith engagement
Safi, Morocco

CONFERENCES

PreJean, C. (2022, January). Religious integrity and a world without religious minorities: Non-Muslim women and the Muslim household [Paper presentation]. Minoritization in Middle Eastern Geopolitics: Histories and Theoretical Approaches, University of California, Los Angeles, CA, United States.

PreJean, C. (2020, January). Christians and forswearing in Islamic law [Paper presentation]. Law and Communal Identity in the Early Medieval World, University of California, Los Angeles, CA, United States.

PreJean, C. (2020, January). Discussant for M. Rustow, "The Fatimid state and the Jewish community: Five Geniza documents" [Discussant]. Law and Communal Identity in the Early Medieval World, University of California, Los Angeles, CA, United States.

PreJean, C. (2019, November). Enslaved to freedom; Enslaved to childhood [Paper presentation and designated discussant]. 53rd Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association.

PreJean, C. (2019, March). Characterizing the social world of the 9th century: Aḥmad b. Ḥanbal's responsa [Paper presentation]. Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society.

PreJean, C. (2018, July). Everyday patterns of behavior between Jews, Christians, and Muslims in ninth-century Baghdad [Paper presentation]. JewsEast, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany.

PreJean, C. (2018, May). Christians under Islamic rule: The benefits of collaboration and inclusion [Paper presentation]. Inclusion and Exclusion in the Middle Ages, International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, United States.

PreJean, C. (2017, December). Praying together: The institution of istisqāʾ in Iraq (Christians and Muslims praying together) [Paper presentation]. The Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies, Oxford, United Kingdom.

PreJean, C. (2017, July). Economic parity between Christians and Muslims in ninth-century Baghdad [Paper presentation]. Christianity in the Islamic World, International Medieval Congress, Leeds, United Kingdom.

WEBINARS AND PANELS

PreJean, C. (2026, April). Fulbright x Association for Jewish Studies: The enduring value of cultural exchange between Israeli and U.S. scholars [Professional development webinar; co-organizer]. Fulbright Israel Interest Group and Association for Jewish Studies. Online.

Akhtar, I., & **PreJean, C.** (2026, May). Scholar. Thinker. Bridge builder: A conversation with Iqbal Akhtar [Interview and discussion; host]. Fulbright Israel Interest Group. Online.

Abadie, K., Del-Aguirre, R., Friedman, S., Israeli, B., & **PreJean, C.** (2025, September). Weizmann: Rebuilding after destruction [Panel; organizer and moderator]. Fulbright Israel Interest Group. Online.

ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE TRAINING

JewsEast **2018**
Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany
Presenter and participant, 10-day program

Christian Arabic **2016**
Beth Mardutho

Syriac II **2015**
Syriac Summer Institute, Beth Mardutho

Arabic Intensive **2014**
Middlebury College

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

Arabic	Reading (advanced), writing (intermediate), speaking (high-intermediate, Modern Standard Arabic)
Hebrew	Biblical Hebrew, reading (intermediate)
Syriac	Aramaic and Syriac, reading (intermediate)
German	Reading (with dictionary)
French	Reading (with dictionary)

ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Organizer and Host, Arabic Bible Reading Group **2018**
Graduate students, University of California, Los Angeles

Organizer and Host, Syriac Reading Group **2018**
Graduate students, University of California, Los Angeles

Web Designer, Content Developer, and Administrator (English and Arabic) **2018**
UCLA Subtitle Project, https://subtitles.ucla.edu