

Curriculum Vitae

Haitham A. Issak, Ph.D.
Instructor in Syriac
The Centre for Patristics and Early Christianity
McMaster Divinity College
issakha@mcmaster.ca

EDUCATION

- Doctor of Philosophy (Christian Theology) (Ph.D.)
McMaster Divinity College, Hamilton, ON, 2018
- Diploma in Eastern Christian Studies (Dip ECS.)
University of Toronto, St. Michael College, 2008
- Master of Theological Studies (MTS)
University of Toronto, St. Michael College, 2006
- Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Theology (BA)
University of Athens, Greece, Department of Social Theology, 1999
- Diploma in Theology (Dip. Th.)
Syriac Seminary in Nineveh, Iraq, 1993

ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Syriac Patristics: Ephrem: A Theologian of Hymns. Winter Semester 2025. CPEC. McMaster Divinity College.
- Syriac Language 2: Winter Semester 2025. CPEC. McMaster Divinity College.
- Syriac Language 1: Fall Semester 2024. CPEC. McMaster Divinity College.
- Syriac Language 2: Winter semester 2024. CPEC. McMaster Divinity College.
- Syriac Language 1: Fall semester 2023. CPEC. McMaster Divinity College.
- Teaching Fellow: The Pappas Patristic Institute. The Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, MA, June 25–29, 2018.
- Teaching Fellow: The Pappas Patristic Institute. The Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, MA, July 30–August 4, 2017.

- Teaching Fellow in Training: The Pappas Patristic Institute. The Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, MA, July 17–22, 2016.
- Teaching: Syriac Seminary in Damascus, Syria, Greek language and Patristics, 2000–2001.
- Teaching: Syriac Seminary in Nineveh, Iraq, New Testament and Syriac (a dialect Aramaic), 1999–2000.

DIRECTOR

- Director: Syriac Seminary in Nineveh, Iraq, 1999–2000.

ACADEMIC PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS

- Paper Presentation
Canadian Evangelical Theological Association. University of Calgary, May 29, 2016 (The Church Fathers and Culture: The Struggle of Christians (the New Community) in the Early Church).
- Paper presentation
The Pappas Patristic Institute. The Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, MA, conference, March 2–4, 2017 (Symbolic Theology: Ephrem the Syriac)
- Paper presentation
The Pappas Patristic Institute. The Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, MA, conference, March 1–3, 2018 (Amos 4:13 & 1Tim 5:21 in the letters of Athanasius to Serapion).
- Paper presentation
The Pappas Patristic Institute. The Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, MA, conference, February 28–March 2, 2019 (Medicine of immortality: The Eucharist in the Letters of Ignatius of Antioch).
- Paper presentation
Canadian Society for Syriac Studies (CSSS) University of Toronto, November 9, 2019 (The Concept of the Eucharist in St. Ignatius and St. Ephrem).
- Paper presentation
New Horizons in Early Christian Studies. University of Toronto. March 26–27, 2021 (St. Ephrem the Syrian and the Arians: Hymns on Faith).
- Guest Lecture
Early Christianity: Transitions, Continuities. McMaster Divinity College. November 15, 2023. (Athanasius of Alexandria and Ephrem the Syriac).

- Paper presentation
Theological Research Seminar. McMaster Divinity College. November 22, 2023.
(Athanasius' interpretation of Amos 4:13 & 1 Timothy 5:21).
- Paper presentation
The graduate student conference. The Centre for Patristics and Early Christianity, MDC.
Thursday, February 1, 2024 (Syriac Patristics: Ephrem: A Theologian of Hymns)

LECTURES

- Lecture
Syriac Church, Mississauga, ON, January 14, 2017
(The Eucharist in the thought of Ignatius of Antioch)
- Lecture
St. Behnam Syriac Orthodox Church, The Philos Project Group. Mississauga, ON, May 4, 2019 (History of the Syriac Church)
- Lecture
Syriac Youth Global Gathering (SYGG), Sweden, July 30–August 4, 2019 (Build on Him: Matthew 16:16)

PUBLISHINGS

Books

- The Spirit of Truth: Johannine Pneumatology in the Letters of Athanasius to Serapion.
September 12, 2023.

Articles

- “Eyewitness Reflections”
The Globalization of Christianity: Implications for Christians Ministry and Theology.
Edited by Gordon L. Heath & Steven M. Studebaker. 2014.
- “Litany Christianity World Christianity”
Article for the *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (EBR). V.16. Berlin, Germany. December 13, 2018.
- “The Concept of the Eucharist in St. Ignatius and St. Ephrem”
Journal of Canadian Society for Syriac Studies (CSSS), vol. 20, p. 78–88, Gorgias Press, 2020.

LANGUAGES

- Aramaic (modern Syriac)
- Greek
- English

- Arabic
- And good knowledge of French

SCHOLARSHIPS

- University of Athens, Greece, 1994–1999

SOCIETIES

- Member of Canadian Society for Syriac Studies (CSSS)
- Member of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL)

PASTORAL WORK: 2001–2020

- Pastoral ministry
Syriac Orthodox Church, Hamilton and GTA 2001–2020.

YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAM

- Summer youth retreat
Mount Alverno Retreat Center, Orangeville, ON, September 11–13, 2009
- Youth day
University of Toronto, Mississauga Campus, ON, May 15, 2010
- Summer youth retreat
Coptic Monastery, Mono, ON, September 4–6, 2010
- Winter youth retreat
Coptic Monastery, Mono, ON, February 19–21, 2011
- Youth day
University of Toronto, Mississauga Campus, ON, May 28, 2011
- Summer youth retreat
Coptic Monastery, Mono, ON, July 30–August 1, 2011
- Summer youth retreat
Nottawasaga Inn Resort and Conference Center, Alliston, ON, August 31–September 2, 2012.
- Summer youth retreat
Nottawasaga Inn Resort and Conference Center, Alliston, ON, August 3–5, 2013
- Summer youth retreat
Nottawasaga Inn Resort and Conference Centre, Alliston, ON, August 2–4, 2014

- Summer youth retreat
Horseshoe Resort, Barrie, ON, September 5-7, 2015
- Winter youth retreat
Beaverton, Brock, ON, February 19-21, 2016
- Summer youth retreat
YMCA Geneva Park, Orillia, ON, July 30-August 1, 2016
- Summer youth retreat
Nottawasaga Inn Resort and Conference Centre, Alliston, ON, September 3-5, 2016
- Winter youth retreat
Coptic Monastery, Mono, ON, February 18-20, 2017
- Summer youth retreat
Coptic Monastery, Mono, ON, September 2-4, 2017
- Youth leaders retreat
Coptic Monastery, Mono, ON, March 1-3, 2018
- Winter youth retreat
Coptic Monastery, Mono, ON, February 17-19, 2018
- Summer youth retreat
Coptic Monastery, Mono, ON, September 1-3, 2018
- Winter youth retreat
Mount Mary Retreat Centre, Ancaster, ON, February 1-3, 2019
- Summer youth retreat
Coptic Monastery, Mono, ON, August 31-September 2, 2019

TEACHING SYRIAC LANGUAGE ONLINE VIA ZOOM

- Syriac Lesson teaching from May 1, 23, 2020, until October 10, 2020 (Church).

TV PROGRAM

- ABN Channel
Aramaic-Broadcasting Network, Michigan, USA, 2010