**JAMES A. FRANCIS, Ph.D.**

University of Kentucky home address:

1055 Patterson Office Tower 3820 Old Tates Creek

Lexington KY 40506-0027 Lexington KY 40517-1006

(859) 257-1603 (859) 271-6760

j.francis@uky.edu

**TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Greek and Roman cultural and social history; late antiquity and early Christianity; ancient religion, philosophy, and asceticism; verbal and visual representation; Latin epigraphy; interdisciplinary methods in research and teaching.

**CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECT**

Visuality, the correlations and connections between verbal and visual representation, and the social functions of images from the second through fourth centuries, C.E., as marking a cultural shift from classical to late antiquity.

**EDUCATION**

1981-91 **Duke University**, Durham, NC. Ph.D. in Classical Studies, May 1991.

Dissertation title: *Asceticism and Authority in the Roman Empire: Society,*

*Culture, and Deviance in the Second Century C.E.*, directed by Kent J. Rigsby.

1978-81 **St. John’s University**, Collegeville, MN. Studies in early Christianity, classical

and modern languages.

1972-76 **Villanova University**, Villanova, PA. B.A. Hon., *magna cum laude*,

concentration in history and philosophy, December 1976.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

current **University of Kentucky**, Lexington, KY. Associate Professor of Classics (since July 2000) in the Department of Modern & Classical Languages, Literatures, & Cultures. Teaching a wide variety of undergraduate courses, including Mythology, Gender & Sexuality, and Ancient Religion; graduate Latin seminars in Cicero and Ammianus Marcellinus. Class sizes range up to 120 students.

2005-2013 **University of Kentucky**, Lexington, KY. Director of the Division of Classics, Department of Modern and Classical Languages, Literatures and Cultures.

2003 **Lexington Theological Seminary**, Lexington, KY. Adjunct Professor of Church

History. Graduate seminar in pagan and Christian asceticism.

2000-2005 **University of Kentucky**, Lexington, KY. Associate Professor of Classics in the

Department of Modern & Classical Languages, Literatures, & Cultures and in the

University Honors Program. Teaching undergraduate courses in Greek and Latin

language, mythology, and literature in translation; Honors colloquia in intellectual

and cultural history from classical antiquity through the Reformation; and graduate

Latin seminars in Cicero and Ammianus Marcellinus. Class sizes range from small

seminars and colloquia to lecture courses of 200 students.

1995-2000 **University of Kentucky**, Lexington, KY. Assistant Professor in the Department

of Classics and University Honors Program.

1993-95 **Rollins College**, Winter Park, FL. Interim Director of the Program in Classics.

Coordinating interdisciplinary program; overseeing and developing curriculum;

budget administration; developing outcomes assessment criteria.

1991-95 **Rollins College**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics. Teaching Latin at all

levels; survey and upper-division courses in Greek and Roman civilization,

including courses in history, mythology, cultural studies, and literature in

translation; tutorials; and Winter-term. Academic adviser to freshmen.

1985 **Duke University Divinity School**, Durham, NC. Lectures on early Christian

asceticism and monasticism.

1980-81 **St. John’s University**, Collegeville, MN. Instructor in Liberal Studies. Designed

and taught a two-semester freshman seminar; academic adviser to students in the

seminar.

1978-81 **St. John’s University**, Assistant Director, N.E.H. Christian Humanism Project. Administration; curriculum development; lectures on social and religious history from late antiquity through the reformation.

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

2006-2007 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship

2000 International Conference Travel Grant, University of Kentucky

1998 Research Committee Grant, University of Kentucky

1998 International Conference Travel Grant, University of Kentucky

1997 Faculty Development Minigrant, University of Kentucky

1992 Critchfield Faculty Development Grant, Rollins College

1989-90 Charlotte W. Newcombe Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Foundation

1985 Duke University Dissertation Research Travel Grant

1981-85 Departmental Graduate Fellowships, Duke University

1976 Phi Kappa Phi

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books**

*Subversive Virtue: Asceticism and Authority in the Second-Century Pagan World.* University Park:

Pennsylvania State University Press, 1995.

*Early Monastic Rules: The Rules of the Fathers and the Regula Orientalis*. Collegeville: Liturgical

Press, 1982. (Co-translator)

**Articles and Chapters**

“Apollonius of Tyana.” 5,000 word entry for Kocku von Stuckrad & Robert Segal, eds., *The Brill*

*Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*. Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers. Anticipated

publication Fall 2018.

“Ancient Seeing/Christian Seeing: The Old and the New in John of Damascus." *Studia Patristica* 96

(2017): 469-76.

“Seeing God(s): Images and the Divine in Pagan and Christian Thought in the Second to Fourth

Centuries C.E.”  Studia Patristica 59 (2013): 5-10.

“Late Antique Visuality: Blurring the Boundaries Between Word and Image, Pagan and Christian.”

In David Brakke, Deborah Deliyannis, & Edward Watts, eds., *Shifting Cultural Frontiers in*

*Late Antiquity*, 139-149. Farnham, Surrey & Burlington VT: Ashgate, 2012.

“Living Images in the Ekphrasis of Homer and Hesiod.” In *Papers of the Langford Latin Seminar* 15:

113-141. Prenton: Oxbow Books, 2012.

“Biblical Not Scriptural: Perspectives on Early Christian Art from Contemporary Classical Scholarship.” *Studia Patristica* 44 (2010): 3-8.

“Metal Maidens, Achilles’ Shield, and Pandora: The Beginnings of ‘Ekphrasis.’” A*merican Journal*

*of Philology* 130 (2009): 1-23.

“Verbal and Visual Representation: Art and Text, Culture and Power in Late Antiquity.” In Philip Rousseau, ed., *A Companion to Late Antiquity*, 285-305. Oxford: Blackwell, 2009. This

volume has received the Association of American Publishers 2009 PROSE award

("Professional and Scholarly Excellence") for Best Single-Volume Reference in Humanities

and Social Sciences.

“Living Icons: The Metaphor of Imaging from the Second to Fourth Centuries, C.E.” *Studia*

*Patristica* 40 (2006): 209-214*.*

“Truthful Fiction: New Questions to Old Answers on Philostratus’s *Life of Apollonius.*” Excerpted

and reprinted in *Classical and Medieval Literature Criticism*, vol. 62. Detroit: Gale

Research, 2003.

“Living Icons: Tracing a Motif in Verbal and Visual Representation from the Second to Fourth

Centuries, C.E.” *American Journal of Philology* 124 (2003): 575-600.

“Clement of Alexandria on Signet Rings: Reading an Image at the Dawn of Christian Art”

*Classical Philology*, 98 (2003): 179-183.

“Truthful Fiction: New Questions to Old Answers on Philostratus’s *Life of Apollonius.*” *American*

*Journal of Philology*, 119 (1998): 419-441.

Review article on *Erasmus and the New Testament: The Mind of a Christian Humanist,* by Albert

Rabil, Jr. In *Erasmus of Rotterdam Society Yearbook,* 16 (1996): 87-93.

“Pagan and Christian Philosophy in Athanasius’ *Vita Antonii*.” *The American Benedictine*

*Review*, 32 (1981): 100-113.

**Reviews**

Review of *The Final Pagan Generation* by Edward J. Watts. In *Journal of Early Christian Studies*

23 (2015): 638-639.

Review of *Theios Sophistes: Essays on Flavius Philostratus’ Vita Apollonii* by Kristoffel Demoen

and Danny Praet. In *Classical World* 104 (2011): 380-1.

Review of *Face to Face: Portraits of the Divine in Early Christianity* by Robin Margaret Jensen.

In *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 13 (2005): 405-6*.*

Review of *People, Personal Expression, and Social Relations in Late Antiquity*, 2 vols., by Ralph

W. Mathisen. In *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 12 (2004): 133-4*.*

Review of *Empire of Pleasures: Luxury and Indulgence in the Roman* *World* by Andrew Dalby. In

*Religious Studies Review* 29 (2003): 86.

Review of *Pagans and Christians in Late Antiquity: A Sourcebook* by A.D. Lee. In *Journal of*

*Early Christian Studies* 10 (2002): 421-3*.*

Review of *The Early History of Greed: The Sin of Avarice in Early Medieval Thought and*

*Literature* by Richard Newhauser. In *Journal of Early Christian Studie*s 10 (2002): 141-3.

Review of *Communities of the Blessed: Social Environment and Religious Change in Northern*

*Italy, AD 200-400* by Mark Humphries. In *The Historian* 64 (2002): 446-7*.*

Review of *Against the Christians: The Rise of Early Anti-Christian Polemic* by Jeffrey W. Hargis.

In *Church History*, 70 (2001): 557*.*

Review of *Les Apologistes Chrétiens et la Culture Grecque*, edited by Bernard Pouderon and

Joseph Doré. In *Church History*, 69 (2000): 867.

Review of *Spectacle Entertainments of Early Imperial Rome* by Richard C. Beacham. In *Religious*

*Studies Review* 26 (2000): 274-5.

Review of *Corrupting Youth: Political Education, Democratic Culture, and Political Theory*,

by J. Peter Euben. In *Religious Studies Review* 25 (1999): 79-80.

Review of *From Death to Rebirth: Ritual and Conversion in Antiquity,* by Thomas M. Finn.

In *Church History,* 67 (1998): 114-16*.*

**PRESENTATIONS & PAPERS**

**Presentations by Invitation**

“Images as People and People as Images: Concomitant Themes from Homer to Christian Antiquity.” Paper presented at “The Spectacle of the Flesh: Iconic Living Bodies in Late Antiquity and Beyond,” Bibliotheca Hertziana, Rome, Italy, 30-31 May 2016.

“Living Images in the Ekphrasis of Homer and Hesiod.” Lecture presented at the 2010 Langford Classics Seminar “Ekphrasis: Description in Antiquity,” at the Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, 6 November 2010.

“People as Images as Words: Combining Verbal and Visual Culture in the 2nd-3rd Centuries C.E.” Seminar presented at the first annual Southeast Regional Late Antiquity Workshop at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. 24-25 April 2009.

“Image/Text, Pagan/Christian: Old Distinctions and New Insights in the Study of Early Christian

Art.” Paper presented at the Society for the Arts in Religious and Theological Studies,

annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, California, 17- 20 November 2007.

“Visuality as a Multi-disciplinary Approach to Ancient Studies.” Lecture presented at the

Indiana University Ancient Studies Colloquium, Bloomington, Indiana, 26 April 2007.

“Visuality, Visual Evidence, and the History of Early Christianity.” Seminar presented at annual meeting of the Study Group on Modeling Piety in Late Antiquity, American Academy of Religion annual convention, San Antonio, Texas, 19-20 November 2004.

“The Representation and Reception of Pagan Holy Men.” Presented at Amherst College,

Department of Religion Lecture Series, 27 September 2000.

“People as Pictures: The Development of Living Icons in Late Antiquity.” Paper presented at

“The Power and the Glory: The Legacy of Constantine at the Dawn of the Third

Millennium*,*” University of Exeter, U.K., 7-10 August 2000.

“In Search of the Holy.” Response to the panel “From Portrait to Icon: Images of the Holier Souls

in Roman and Early Christian Art,” presented at the 86th annual meeting of The College

Art Association. Toronto, Ontario, 25-28 February 1998.

“Constructions of Masculinity in Late Antiquity.” Response to the panel “Gender and Power,”

presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia,

Pennsylvania, 18-21 November 1995.

**Conference Papers**

“Ancient Seeing/Christian Seeing: The Old and the New in John of Damascus." Paper presented at the 17th Quadrennial International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford, U.K., 10-14

August 2015.

“Seeing God(s): Images and the Divine in Pagan and Christian Thought in the Second to Fourth

Centuries C.E.” Paper presented at the 16th Quadrennial International Conference on Patristic

Studies, Oxford, U.K., 8-12 August 2011.

“The Power of Images and Images of Power: The Living Icon in Late Antiquity,” paper presented at “Icons and Iconoclasm,” the Forum for Interdisciplinary Dialogue, Jefferson Scholars Foundation of the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, 22-24 September 2010.

“Image and Text in Early Christianity: A ‘Classic’ Disjunction?” Paper presented at the 20th Annual

Meeting of the North American Patristics Society, Chicago, 21-23 May 2009.

“Late Antique Visuality: Blurring the Boundaries Between Word and Image, Pagan and Christian.” Paper presented at the biennial “Shifting Frontiers in Late Antiquity” Conference, Indiana

University, Bloomington, Indiana, 2-5April 2009.

“Ancient Artistry, Ancient Literacy, and the Interpretation of Earliest Christian Art.” Paper presented

at the “Working Conference on Ways of Seeing in Late Antique Material Religion,”

University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, 28-29 March 2008.

“Biblical Not Scriptural: Perspectives on Early Christian Art from Contemporary Classical Scholarship.” Paper presented at the 15th Quadrennial International Conference on

Patristic Studies, Oxford, U.K., 6-11 August 2007.

“Toward a Verbal-Visual Approach to the Study of Early Christianity: An Agenda for History, Art

History, Theology, and Theory.” Paper presented at the conference “Early Christian Studies

and the Academic Disciplines,” Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.,

5-8 June 2005.

“Living Icons: The Metaphor of Imaging from the Second to Fourth Centuries, C.E.” Paper

presented at the 14th Quadrennial International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford,

U.K., 18-23 August 2003.

“Life Imitates Art: Developments in the Visual Dimensions of Verbal Representation in the Later Empire.” Paper presented at the 99th annual meeting of the Classical Association of the Middle West & South, Lexington, Kentucky, 3-5 April 2003.

“Clement of Alexandria on Signet Rings: Reading an Image at the Dawn of Christian Art.” Paper

presented at the 16th annual meeting of the North American Patristics Society, Chicago,

Illinois, 23-25 May 2002.

“How to Look at Art: Plato, Julian the Apostate, and Pierre Bourdieu Explain it All to You.”

Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston,

Massachusetts, 20-23 November 1999.

“Patristic Studies and the Art History of Early Christianity: The State of a Delicate Relationship.”

Paper presented at the 13th Quadrennial International Conference on Patristic Studies,

Oxford, U.K., 16-21 August 1999.

“Text, Image, and History: Approaching the Christianization of the Roman Empire.” Paper

presented at the 130th annual meeting of the American Philological Association, Washington, D.C. 27-30 December 1998.

“The Body of Jesus as a Political Problem: Early Christian Art and Its Interpreters.” Paper

presented at “After the Body: An International Conference on Religion, Culture, and

Gender,”Manchester, U.K., 22-25 June 1998.

“Imaging the Logos: A Synoptic Approach to Problems in the Christianization of the Roman

Empire.” Paper presented at the 94th annual meeting of the Classical Association of the

Middle West and South, Charlottesville, Virginia, 15-18 April 1998.

“Serious Fiction: New Questions to Old Answers on Philostratus’s *Life of Apollonius.*” Paper

presented to the 93rd annual meeting of the Classical Association of the Middle West

and South, Boulder, Colorado, 3-5 April 1997.

“Heroizing the Holy Man: Continuity, Rehabilitation, and Context.” Paper presented at the 127th annual meeting of the American Philological Association, San Diego, California,

27-30 December 1995.

“Piety and Personification in the Second through the Fourth Centuries.” Paper presented at the

annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 18-21

November 1995.

“The Holy Man as Icon: An Aspect of the Christianization of the Upper Classes from the Second

to Fourth Centuries.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association of Ancient

Historians, Nashville, Tennessee, 5-7 May 1995.

“Holy Men and Divine Men: A Reexamination.” Paper presented to the 91st annual meeting of

the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, Omaha, Nebraska, 19-22 April 1995.

“Was Marcus Aurelius an Ascetic?” Paper presented at the 90th annual meeting of the Classical

Association of the Middle West and South, Atlanta, Georgia, 6-9 April 1994.

“The Rehabilitation of a Radical: New Perspectives on Philostratus’s *Life of Apollonius*.” Paper

presented at the 124th annual meeting of the American Philological Association,

New Orleans, Louisiana, 27-30 December 1992.

“Lucian as Patriot: A Cultural Apology for the *Alexander* and *Peregrinus*.” Paper presented at the

annual meeting of the Southern Section of the Classical Association of the Middle West

and South, Richmond, Virginia, 29-31 October 1992.

**OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

External evaluator for tenure and promotion to associate professor for Scott Johnson, Ph.D.,

Department of Classics & Letters, University of Oklahoma, 2016

Referee for Journals:

*Classical Journal,* 2012

*Greek, Roman & Byzantine Studies,* 2012

*Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture,* 2009

*Journal of Late Antiquity,* 2009

*Journal of Early Christian Studies,* 2003, 2007, 2009

*Transactions of the American Philological Association,* 1999

Referee for Academic Presses:

Wiley-Blackwell, 2012

Cornell University Press, 2006

Catholic University of America Press, 2004

Routledge, 2003

University of California Press, 2001

Co-director of MA thesis “Of Serpents and Wool: A Closer look at Roman Domestic Cults and their

Display in the Domus,” by Caitlin B. Rogers, Istituto Lorenzo de’ Medici-Marist College-

Università degli Studi di Firenze, Italy. 2014-present.

Referee for the research project “The Spectacle of the Flesh: The Iconicity of Living Bodies in Late

Antiquity” for funding from Swiss National Science Foundation via Research Commission of

the Università della Svizzera Italiana, April 2015.

N.E.H. Fellowships advisory panel for Ancient & Classical Studies, 2009 & 2014.

Referee for the panel “Technologies of Personal Power in Late Antiquity,” 136th annual meeting of

the American Philological Association, Boston, Massachusetts, 5-8 January 2005.

Referee for the Feminism and Classics Conference for “Diotima: Materials for the Study of Women

and Gender in the Ancient World” (www.stoa.org/diotima), 2005.

Member of the local arrangements committee for the 99th annual meeting of the Classical Association

of the Middle West & South, Lexington, Kentucky, 3-5 April 2003.

Organized and presided over the panel “Voyages Real and Imagined in Late Antiquity,” 132nd annual

meeting of the American Philological Association, San Diego, California, 3-6 January 2001.

Organized and presided over Classics section panels at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference,

1999– 2002.

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Association of Ancient Historians

Classical Association of the Middle West and South

Colloquium on Late Antiquity, American Philological Association

North American Patristics Society

Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions

Society for Classical Studies (formerly American Philological Association)

Society for Late Antiquity

**UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY SERVICE**

**current duties**

Classics bibliographer and library liaison: since 2000

**past service**

M.A. Committee-Classics, Caroline Holland: Spring 2018

MCL 495 capstone Classics liaison: Spring 2018

Gaines Thesis Committee member, Jacob Kaylor: 2017-2018

MCL 495 capstone Classics liaison: Fall 2017

Chair, ad hoc faculty committee on a Religious Studies program: 2013-2018

Convener of the Classics Working Group-MCLLC: July 2016-October 2017

Undergraduate adviser for Classics: 2014-2015

Topical Studies thesis adviser for Jean-Louise Noffke: 2014-2015

Liaison with Centre College for the Khirbet Qana archaeological excavation: Fall 2014

Convener of the Folklore & Mythology Working Group-MCLLC: 2013-2016

Undergraduate adviser for Folklore & Mythology minor: 2013-2016

MCLLC Undergraduate Studies Committee member: 2013-2014

Director of the Division of Classics: Fall 2005-Spring 2013

Department Executive Committee-MCLLC: Fall 2005-Spring 2013

Chair, Search Committee for Lecturer in Classics: Spring 2013

Chair, M.A. Committee-Classics, Allen Benningfield: 2012-2013

Ph.D. Examination Committee-English, Joshua Reid: Spring 2013

Ph.D. Examination Committee-Philosophy, Charles Joshua Horn: Spring 2013

M.A. Committee-Classics, Lisa Jagoda: Spring 2013

Public Relations Materials Committee, MCLLC: 2011-2012

Panelist for “Grant Proposal Development For Faculty in the Humanities Disciplines,” sponsored by the College of Arts & Sciences of the University of Kentucky: 25 March 2009

Kentucky High School Foreign Language Festival judge: 1996-1997, 1999-2001, 2003-2004, 2006, 2008

Ph.D. Examination Committee-Philosophy, Paul Carrelli: 2008

M.A. Committee-Classics, Geoffrey Bain: 2008

Chair, M.A. Committee-Classics, Cory Gilbert: 2007-2008

Chair of the Committee for Departmental Polices & Procedures-MCLLC: 2005-2006

Committee for Folklore-Mythology Minor Program-MCLLC: 2005-2006

Ph.D. Dissertation Committee-History, Graduate School Representative, Linda Beckum: 2005

Provost’s Steering Committee for the University Honors Program: 2004-2005

Oswald Humanities Critical Research Award committee: 2004-2005

Division of Classics undergraduate major revision committee: 2004-2005

Ph.D. Examination and Dissertation Committee-History, James Cousins: 2004-2007

M.A. Thesis Committee-Art History, Patrick J. Bayens: Spring-Summer 2004

Curriculum Committee, College of Arts & Sciences: Spring 2004

M.A. Thesis Committee-Classics, Ralph Carpenter: 2004

Ph.D. Examination and Dissertation Committee-History, Lisa Holiday: 2003-2006

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Division of Classics: 2003-2004

Public Relations Materials Committee, MCLLC: 2004-2003

Sponsor of Undergraduate Research Grant project, Hope Meisinger: Fall 2003

Ph.D. Dissertation Committee-History, Kay Woods: 2002-2007

Summer Advising Conferences, faculty expectations presentation: 1999-2000

Honors Program Admissions Committee: 1998-2001, 2003-2005

Classics Department website redesign: 1998, 2001, 2003

Classics Department communications/public relations materials design: 1998

“UK: Come See for Yourself” minority recruitment program, Honors Program representative:

1998-1997

Summer Advising Conferences, Classics Department representative: 1997

Singletary Scholarship applications reader: 1996-1998, 2000-2001

Diversity Issues Panel at New Faculty Orientation: 1996, 1997, 1998 (chair)

Search Committee, joint Honors-Philosophy appointment in ancient philosophy: 1996-1997

Oral Communication Across the Curriculum Workshop presenter: 1996

Arts & Sciences Faculty Retreat: 1996

*revised March 2018*