

SAMUEL I. THOMAS

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Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
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EMPLOYMENT

Professor of Religion, California Lutheran University
August 2016 – present

Director, University Honors Program, California Lutheran University
June 2024 – present

Associate Dean of Students & Faculty Affairs, California Lutheran University
July 2018 – August 2020

Associate Professor of Religion, California Lutheran University
August 2012 – July 2016

Assistant Professor of Religion, California Lutheran University
August 2006 – July 2012

Instructor, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN
Fall 2005

Co-Founder, Co-Owner, Breadsmith (Our Daily Bread, LLC) kosher artisan bakery, South Bend, IN, August 2002 – December 2006

EDUCATION

Ph.D., University of Notre Dame, IN
Christianity & Judaism in Antiquity Program

M.Div., Yale University Divinity School, New Haven, CT
Magna cum laude

B.A., St. John's University, Collegeville, MN
Biology & Pre-Med; semester at Collège International de Cannes, France

PUBLICATIONS (*indicates peer-reviewed; °indicates invited work)

Single-Author Books and Edited Volumes

The Language of the Senses in Ancient Judaism: Metaphor, Meaning, and Ritual Experience (monograph in progress)

Making Things: Ecology, Craft, and Spirituality (in progress)

The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Study of the Humanities: Method, Theory, Meaning (eds George Brooke, Alison Schofield, Eibert Tigchelaar, and Samuel Thomas; *Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah*; Leiden: Brill, 2018)

A Teacher for All Generations: Essays in Honor of James C. VanderKam on the Occasion of His 65th Birthday (eds Kelley Coblentz Bautch, Eric Mason, Samuel Thomas et al.; *Journal for the Study of Judaism: Supplement Series*; Leiden: Brill, 2012)

**The “Mysteries” of Qumran: Mystery, Secrecy, and Esotericism in the Dead Sea Scrolls* (*Early Judaism and Its Literature* 25; *Society of Biblical Literature/Brill*, 2009)

**Dead Sea Discoveries* 15 (2008), with Hindy Najman, Daniel Machiela, and Alison Schofield

Articles

*“Hearing the Vision: גִּלְיָה אֶזְרָא in 4QInstruction and Qumran Sectarian Texts,” in *Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel* 5 (2016)

°“3 Maccabees,” “4 Maccabees,” in *The Fortress Commentary on the Old Testament* (ed. Matthew Coomber, Gale Yee, and Hugh Page; Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2014)

°“Living Water by the Dead Sea: Water Metaphors and Performativity in Some Qumran Texts,” in *Thinking About Water in Antiquity* (ed. Ehud Ben Zvi; BZAW; Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2014)

°“Watchers Traditions in the Dead Sea Scrolls,” in *Looking at the Watchers: Studies on the Interpretive Traditions of Gen 6:1-4 and the Myth of the Fallen Angels* (ed. Angela Kim Harkins, Kelley Coblentz Bautch, and John Endres, S.J.; Minneapolis: Fortress, 2014)

“Eternal Writing and Immortal Writers: On the Non-Death of the Scribe in Early Judaism,” in *A Teacher for All Generations: Essays in Honor of James C. VanderKam* (ed. Kelley Coblentz Bautch, Eric Mason, Samuel Thomas et al.; *Journal for the Study of Judaism: Supplement Series*; Brill, 2012)

◦ "Esoteric Knowledge in Qumran Aramaic Texts," in *Aramaica Qumranica: The Aix-en-Provence Colloquium on the Aramaic Dead Sea Scrolls* (ed. Katell Berthelot and Daniel Stökl ben Ezra; Studies on the Texts from the Judean Desert; Leiden: Brill, 2010)

* "Enoch, Elijah and the (Eschatological) Torah," *Henoch: Studies in Judaism and Christianity from Second Temple to Late Antiquity* 30.1 (2009): 54-59

* "Riddled with Guilt: The Mysteries of Transgression, the Sealed Vision, and the Art of Interpretation in 4Q300 and Related Texts," *Dead Sea Discoveries* 15 (2008): 155-71

Dictionary/Encyclopedia Articles

◦ ἀποκρύπτω, ἀπόκρυφος," in *The Historical and Theological Lexicon of the Septuagint* (ed. E. Bons and J. Joosten; Mohr Siebeck, 2019)

◦ "Mysteries" in *The Companion to the Dead Sea Scrolls* (ed. Charlotte Hempel and George Brooke; T&T Clark, 2018)

◦ "Joel, Book of," and "Judges, Judging, Judgment," in *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2015)

◦ "בינות בינה בין"; "בלע בליעל"; "חתם חותם"; "נבט"; "פשע"; "פלא" in *Theologisches Wörterbuch zu den Qumrantexten* (ed. Heinz-Josef Fabry; Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 2012)

◦ "Mystery"; "Mystery Religion, Judaism as"; and "Goodenough, E.R." in *Dictionary of Early Judaism* (ed. John J. Collins and Daniel Harlow; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010)

Reviews and Miscellaneous Publications

◦ Review of Bennie H. Reynolds, *Between Symbolism and Realism: The Use of Symbolic and Non-Symbolic Language in Ancient Jewish Apocalypses 333-63 B.C.E.* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2011), in *Dead Sea Discoveries* 21 (2014): 268-71

◦ "The Trouble with Food," *The Lutheran* (June 2013)

Review of Daniel Falk, Sarianna Metso, Donald Parry, and Eibert Tigchelaar, eds., *Qumran Cave 1 Revisited: Texts from Cave 1 Sixty Years after Their Discovery:*

Proceedings of the Sixth Meeting of the IOQS in Ljubljana (Leiden: Brill, 2010), in *Review of Biblical Literature* (February, 2013)

◦Review of Judith Baskin and Kenneth Seeskind, eds., *The Cambridge Guide to Jewish History, Culture, and Religion* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (May 2012)

◦“A Return to the Garden: Climate Change and Environmental Ethics,” *Journal of Lutheran Ethics*, April 2009: <https://elca.org/JLE/Articles/383>

Review of Fred Strickert, *Rachel Weeping: Jews, Christians, and Muslims at the Fortress Tomb* (Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 2007), *Review of Biblical Literature* (November 2008)

Review of P. S. Alexander, *Mystical Texts: Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice and Related Manuscripts* (LSTS 61; London: T&T Clark, 2006), *Review of Biblical Literature* (April 2008)

Review of Daniel Brizemeure, Noël Lacoudre and Émile Puech, *Le Rouleau de cuivre de la grotte 3 de Qumrân (3Q15): Expertise, Restauration, Epigraphie* (STDJ 55; 2 vols.; Leiden: Brill, 2006), *Review of Biblical Literature* (October 2007)

“Faculty Viewpoint: CLU and Sustainability,” *CLU Magazine*, November 2008

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

Participant & Presenter, Orion Environmental Writers Workshop (a competitive, refereed workshop), Omega Institute, Rhinebeck, NY, June 2023

“Sustaining Attention: Practice, Inspiration, Reverence,” Architecture, Culture, and Spirituality Forum *Practices Toward a Future* (www.acsforum.org), Fallingwater House, Bear Run, PA, June 2022

Participant, 10-scholar roundtable, “Inscribing the Sacred: Reading, Writing, and the Origins of the Bible as Book” University of Denver, University of Colorado at Boulder, and the Denver Museum of Science & Nature, May 2018

“A Biblical Ethic of Attention,” “Theological Anthropology in the Anthropocene,” “Watershed Discipleship and a Bioregional Economy,” “Indigenous Lifeways, Environmentalism, and Cultural Appropriation,” and “Interfaith Cooperation and Environmental Justice,” invited lectures delivered at the Spiritual Life Institute at St. Martin’s University, July 2016

Response to Cynthia Moe Lobeda, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Luther Lecture, “Climate Justice, Hope, and a Lutheran Ethic of Love Incarnate,” April 2016

"Ethnography of the Dead: Language, Ritual, and Religious Experience in the Dead Sea Scrolls," invited lecture sponsored by the Religious Studies and Anthropology departments at the University of Virginia, March 26, 2015

"How We Think They Thought: Cognitive Anthropology, Ritual Studies, and the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls," paper presented at the Religious Experience in Antiquity Section, Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, San Diego, November 2014

"Engaging Students in Food Justice through Experiential Learning," panel presentation at the AAR Western Region Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, March 2014

"Subjunctive Worlds: Metaphor and Performativity in Qumran Ritual Texts," paper presented at the Eighth Congress of the International Organization for Qumran Studies, Munich, Germany, August 4-7, 2013

"Alternative Learning Sites: Food, Farming, and Sustainability," presentation at the 2012 meeting of the Association of Lutheran College Faculties, Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN, October 2012

"Sense Perception and Metaphor in the Dead Sea Scrolls," paper presented at the Qumran Section, Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, San Francisco, November 2011

Response to Alison Schofield, "Critical Spatiality and the Dead Sea Scrolls," presented at the Archaeology and Religion in the Roman World Section, Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, San Francisco, November 2011

"Hearing the Vision: גללה און as a Mode of Perception in Qumran Texts," paper presented at the Seventh Congress of the International Organization for Qumran Studies, Helsinki, Finland, August 2-4, 2010

"Bridges, Walls, and Arches: Space and Identity in Mediterranean Antiquity," response to three graduate papers at the Beyond Borderlands Graduate Conference, University of California Santa Barbara, April 16, 2010

"Watchers and Giants in Qumran Sectarian Texts: Appropriations and Translations," paper presented at the annual meeting of the Catholic Biblical Association, Omaha, August 3, 2009

"The Seal of the Vision Is Sealed from You': Esotericism and Identity in the Dead Sea Scrolls," invited presentation to the Ancient Borderlands Research Focus Group, University of California Santa Barbara, February 12, 2009

"Vision, Interpretation, Mediation: Textuality and Experience in Qumran Literature," paper presented in the Religious Experience in Early Judaism and Christianity section, Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Boston, November 2008

"Eternal Writing and Immortal Writers: On the Non-Death of the Scribe in Early Judaism," paper presented at the Qumran / Social History of Formative Judaism and Christianity section, Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Boston, November 2008

"Esoteric Knowledge in Qumran Aramaic Texts," Colloque international sur les textes araméens de Qumrân," Aix-en-Provence, France, July 2, 2008

"Enoch, Elijah and the (Eschatological) Torah," paper presented to the Enoch Seminar, Camaldoli, Italy, July 11, 2007

"Who Knows the Mysteries? And Why Do They Speak Aramaic?" paper presented at the International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Vienna, Austria, July 26, 2007

"The 'Mystery' Community: Raz in the Dead Sea Scrolls," paper presented at the Notre Dame Symposium, "Reading Between the Lines: Scripture and Community in the Dead Sea Scrolls," March 2006

"The Dialectical Embrace of Judaism and Christianity: Rashi and Nicholas of Lyra on the Song of Songs," invited lecture delivered at the College of St. Scholastica, April 2005

"Mysticism in the Dead Sea Scrolls?" invited lecture to the Jewish Roots of Eastern Christian Mysticism Seminar at Marquette University, November 2005

Participant/Panelist, "Building Toward the Future: Jewish-Christian Relations in Cultural Context," Krakow, Poland, Sept. 14-21, 2003

"The Cosmic Craftswoman: Wisdom, Creation and Creativity," paper delivered at the Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University, March 2001

PROFESSIONAL and COMMUNITY SERVICE

Committee and Other Institutional Service (Cal Lutheran unless otherwise noted)

Chair, Department of Religion, June 2016-18; June 2022—present

Member, Appointment, Rank and Tenure Committee, 2017-18; 2021—present

Chair, Ethnic and Race Studies Search Committee, 2019-2020

Member, Awards Committee, 2018-2020

Member, Earth & Environmental Sciences Search Committee, 2018-19

Member, Geology Search Committee, 2017-18

Director, CLU SEEd Project, 2017-18

Member, ARC-USA, the national Anglican-Roman Catholic Consultation, 2017-2020

Equity Adviser for Faculty Recruitment and Development, 2017—present

Member, Task Force on the University Experience, May-August 2016

Chair, Faculty Affairs and Development Committee, 2013-16

Co-Leader, Center for Urban Education Evidence Team, December 2015-December 2016

Founding Member, Sustainability Committee, 2013-2017

Founder and Faculty Adviser, SEEd (Sustainable Edible Education) Project at CLU, September 2010-17

Interim Director, Segerhammar Center for Faith and Culture, 2013-15

Interim Division Coordinator, Humanities Division, 2014-15

Faculty Mentor for first-year faculty members, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2016-17

Associate Director, Center for Equality and Justice, 2009-12, Summer 2015

Faculty Mentor, CLU Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF)

- 2009: "Appropriating Environmentalism: Indigenous Lifeways and Radical Environmental Movements" (Maura Schmitz)
- 2011: "Liberation, Resistance, and Rap: A Redefinition of Religion" (Aminah Hassoun)

Co-Chair, Sustainability Council / Committee, 2009-13

Member, General Education Subcommittee, Educational Policy and Planning Committee, 2010-12

Member, Cohort 15 of the Ventura County Leadership Academy, 2009-10

Member, Religion Department Search Committee, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2010-11, 2013-14, 2014-15 (chair)

Member, Mathematics Department Search Committee, 2011-12, 2016-17

Member, MPPA Director Search Committee, 2010-11

Secretary, Faculty Executive Committee (FEC), 2008-10

Member, Provost Search Committee, 2008-09

Chair, Religion Working Group, Center for Equality and Justice, 2008-09

Co-Chair, President's Task Force on University Sustainability, 2008-09

Member, Strategic Planning Committee, 2008-10

First-Year Advisor, 2007-08, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2013-14, 2015-16

Service to the Profession

Review Editor, Early Jewish History, *Marginalia Review of Books*, January 2014-17

Member, Editorial Board, Society of Biblical Literature Bible Odyssey Project (NEH funded), January 2013-2017

Community Service

Vice-President, Board of Directors, Los Padres Forest Watch, 2016—present

Member, Board of Directors, Community Leaders Association, 2018-19

Founding Member, Board of Directors, Slow Food Ventura County, 2015-2020

President, Board of Directors, The Abundant Table Farm Project, 2011-16

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Owner & Maker, Wildbird Woodworks custom furniture studio, Newbury Park, CA
April 2021 – present

Resident Scholar, Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research, Fall 2012

Dissertation Committee Member, Emily Schmidt, University of California Santa Barbara,
"Judea Capta: Monuments and Identity in Rome and Jerusalem, 39BCE – 96 CE"

Consultant / Expert Commentator, "Armageddon Battle Plan," a documentary on the
War Scroll (Dead Sea Scrolls) for the History Channel, aired December 2009

Consultant / Expert Commentator, feature film "The Book of Eli" extras, 2009

Conference Organizer, "Reading between the Lines: Scripture and Community in the
Dead Sea Scrolls," University of Notre Dame, March 5-6, 2006

Admissions Counselor, Saint John's University/College of Saint Benedict, 1996-98

Volunteer Aide, L'Hôpital Français de Saint Louis, Jerusalem, Israel, 1994-96

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS and HONORS

G.A. Foster Legacy Foundation grant for Religion department programs (\$90,000), July
2024

Council of Independent Colleges, Institute for Diversity, Civility, and the Liberal Arts
(~\$4000), June 2019

City of Thousand Oaks Community Enhancement Grant for native plant demonstration
site (\$5000), December 2017

Community Leaders Association Grant for Outdoor Teaching Kitchen (\$1500), Spring
2017

Environmental Sustainability Award from CA State Senator Fran Pavley, March 2016

City of Thousand Oaks Community Enhancement Grant for vermicomposting program
(\$5000), December 2015

Departmental Excellence in Diversity Pedagogy Award, California Lutheran University, 2018-19, 2016-17, 2014-15

Faculty Research and Creative Works Fellowship (\$5000), California Lutheran University, 2014-15

Hewlett Grant for Professional Development, California Lutheran University, 2013, 2012, 2010, 2008, 2007

Nominee, Diversity Professor of the Year, California Lutheran University, 2018, 2013, 2011, 2008

Friend of Student Support Services Award, California Lutheran University, 2009-10, 2007-08

Leadership Excellence Award, California Lutheran University's Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, 2007-08

PUBLIC / COMMUNITY LECTURES

"The Dead Sea Scrolls, Then and Now," Varenita Assisted Living, Simi Valley, November 2024

"Justice for People and the Land," Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Thousand Oaks, November 2019

"Judaism and Ecology," Etz Chaim Synagogue, Thousand Oaks, March 2019

"The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible," lecture at The Reserve retirement center, Thousand Oaks, CA, August 2018

"The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Study of the Past," lecture series at Faith Presbyterian Church, Colorado Springs, CO, July 2018

"Ritual and Prayer Texts among the Dead Sea Scrolls," lecture at Pepperdine University, October 2016

"Seeds and Gardens from Babylon to America," Camarillo Public Library, May 2016

"Ancient Israel, Modern Questions," workshop conducted with the ELCA Southwest Synod, January 2016

"The Dead Sea Scrolls: Ancient Manuscripts and Modern Debates," lecture at University

Village Retirement Community, November 2015

"Fun Facts about the Dead Sea Scrolls," interactive presentation to 6th and 7th graders at A. E. Wright Middle School, Calabasas, March 2015

"Hoping for Rain" panelist at California Lutheran University, February 2015

"Gardens Then and Now," lecture to the Delta Kappa Gamma annual meeting, California Lutheran University, January 2015

"Food, Farming, and Environmental Ethics," lectures at the Rocky Mountain Synod of the ELCA, Denver, CO, November 2014

"The Dead Sea Scrolls and Modern Scholarship," lecture at Temple Etz Chaim, Thousand Oaks, CA, December 2013

"Living in God's Garden: Creation, Land, and Sustainable Food," workshop for the Southwest California Synod of the ELCA, Los Angeles, CA, October 2013

"Ancient Scrolls, Modern Debates," lecture at Congregation Bnei Emet, Simi Valley, CA, April 2013

"The Dead Sea Scrolls: Then and Now," lecture at Temple Ner Ami, Camarillo, CA, December 2012

"Attention, Work, and Well-Being," lecture sponsored by the Benedictine Institute, St. John's University, Collegeville, MN, October 2012

"Food, Farming, and Justice: Christian Faith and Social Responsibility," lecture at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Thousand Oaks, CA, April 2011

"Scandinavian Furniture Design in the 20th Century," lecture at the Scandinavian Center, Thousand Oaks, CA, March 2011

"Hospitality in the Old Testament," lecture at Ascension Lutheran Church, Thousand Oaks, CA, March 2011

"The Sermon on the Mount in the Context of Second Temple Judaism," lecture at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Canoga Park, CA, March 2011

"Esotericism and Mysticism in the Dead Sea Scrolls," invited lecture at the Inn of the Seventh Ray, Topanga, CA, January 2011

"The Story of the Dead Sea Scrolls," invited lecture to the Thousand Oaks Kiwanis Club,

July 14, 2010

Review lecture of R. Crumb's *The Book of Genesis Illustrated*, California Lutheran University Books & Brew, March 2010

"Writing, Scripture, Canon," lecture series at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Westlake Village, CA, October 2009

"Human / Nature: God, Christians, and the Environment," lecture series at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Westlake Village, CA, May 2009

"Evil in the Biblical Tradition," lecture series at Ascension Lutheran Church, Thousand Oaks, CA, May 2008

"Jewish-Christian Relations," lecture series at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Westlake Village, CA, January 2008

"The Current State of Dead Sea Scrolls Research," California Lutheran University Faculty Retreat "Spotlight on Scholarship," August 2007

"The Shape(s) and Function(s) of Scripture in the Time of Jesus," lecture series at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Thousand Oaks, CA, August 2007

Review lecture of Bart Ehrman's *Misquoting Jesus: The Story Behind Who Changed the Bible and Why*, California Lutheran University Books & Brew, March 2007

"The Character of Catholic Higher Education," delivered as part of the Faith and Reason Forum, California Lutheran University, February 2007

UNIVERSITY COURSES

Religion, Identity, and Vocation

Religion, Food, and the Environment (Honors Program)

Craft, Nature, & Spirituality (Honors Program)

Introduction to Christianity

The Bible in the Ancient World

Environmental Ethics / Religion & Ecological Ethics

Exploring Biblical Traditions (Bachelor's Degree for Professionals)

Old Testament and Ecology (St. John's School of Theology, MN)

Religion, Identity, and Culture

Jews and Christians: Conversation and Conflict from Antiquity to the Present

The Dead Sea Scrolls: An Introduction

Introduction to Classical Hebrew

Introduction to Aramaic (Independent Study)

Introduction to Biblical Greek

American Apocalypse

LANGUAGES

Modern: English, Spanish (proficient); French (proficient); German (reading)

Ancient: Classical Hebrew (Biblical, Qumran, Mishnaic); Koine & Classical (Attic) Greek;
Aramaic (Imperial & Jewish)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Academy of Religion

Society of Biblical Literature

International Organization for Qumran Studies

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education

CV – Samuel I. Thomas

Catholic Biblical Association