

Gabriel Bar-Sawme

### **Educational History**

BS in Social Work, Örebro University, Sweden 2004-2008

BA in Theology, Newman Institute, Sweden 2008-2011

MA in Theological Studies, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2011-2013

PhD in Ecclesiology, Uppsala University, 2015-2021

### **Work Experience**

Case Manager in Social Service, 2009-2011, Västerås, Sweden.

I managed cases and investigated clients with drug addiction, children who were in need of support and adults who were in need of monetary support.

Volunteer, Jesuit mission outside Harare in Zimbabwe, August 2009-November 2009

I took a break from my job and theological studies and spent a few months teaching English at a school run by the Jesuit mission in Zimbabwe.

Youth Director, Syriac Orthodox Archdiocese for Eastern USA, 2011-2013

During my studies at PTS I worked for the Archdiocese on establishing a youth association across the eastern USA, from MA to FL.

Director of Development, Sankt Ignatios Foundation 2013-2018

I was recruited from PTS to work on establishing the inter-orthodox foundation of Sankt Ignatios. It was founded by eastern and oriental governing bishops in Sweden. Today it has a collaboration with Stockholm School of Theology and runs its own seminary education which is accredited by Swedish authorities for higher education and adult education.

Academic Dean, Sankt Ignatios Foundation, 2018-2019

I worked to establish our undergraduate program for theological studies in collaboration with Stockholm School of Theology. I managed the planning of the academic conference on Syriac studies together with colleagues from the foundation. See the following link:

[https://www.academia.edu/36861147/\\_The\\_Future\\_of\\_Syriac\\_Studies](https://www.academia.edu/36861147/_The_Future_of_Syriac_Studies)

Deputy Dean, Sankt Ignatios Foundation, 2019-2023 (currently on leave of duty)

Investigator in child care cases, social services, 2023-current

### **Courses Taught**

During my time at Sankt Ignatios Foundation and Stockholm School of Theology I have taught several courses. Here is an excerpt of courses that I have taught:

Syriac, basic to advanced level

Practical Liturgics in the Syriac Orthodox tradition

Introduction to Liturgical Studies

Church History – Early Church

The Gospel and the Letters of Paul

Sacred Texts of Eastern Christianity  
Historical Theology  
Eastern Christian Liturgies  
Eastern Christian Ecclesiology  
Global Orthodoxy after 1989  
The Church as Polis

### **Editor and other Appointments**

Member of the Editorial Board of *Svenskt Gudstjänstliv*, 2018-present

It is the only peer-reviewed magazine in liturgical studies in the Nordic countries.

<https://journals.lub.lu.se/sgl/index>

Member of the Editorial Board of *Signum Magazine*, 2016-2023

It is a cultural journal that deals with issues pertaining to the intersection of culture, theology, society and much more. <https://signum.se/redaktionskommitte/>

Member of the Joint Biblical Commission in Sweden since 2016.

### **Publications**

#### **Monograph**

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Bar-Sawme, G. (2021). *Entering the Holy Place in Syriac Orthodox Liturgy: A Ritual and Theological Analysis* (PhD dissertation, Department of Theology, Uppsala University).

[The dissertation dealt with the relationship between liturgical text and space. The dissertation used historical methods and gave me a deep understanding of rituals in the Syriac Orthodox church.]

#### **Peer-reviewed original articles:**

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Bar-Sawme, G. (forthcoming). Migration and Liturgical Reform in the Syriac Orthodox Church in the diaspora. [Will be published as a proceeding from a conference called "Oriental Orthodox Textual Traditions in the Present" which is funded by the ERC project "Rewriting Global Orthodoxy".]

[The article deals with how the Syriac Orthodox Church in the diaspora has adapted to the new contexts that it has moved into. I trace the different stages of establishment in various countries in Europe and move on to detail changes in practice as well as written texts. I problematize the relationship between text and practice and analyze these changes against the notion of cultural hybridity]

Bar-Sawme, G. (2022). Den Syrisk-ortodoxa kyrkan i Sverige - en splittrad minoritetskyrka i förändring. (*Kyrkohistorisk årsskrift*).

[In this article I attempt to capture the many changes that the Syriac Orthodox Church in Sweden is going through and has gone through since its establishment in Sweden. I focus on rituals and organizational changes.]

Bar-Sawme, G. (2019). Den syrisk-ortodoxa liturgin i Sverige – om migration och liturgisk förändring. In Bar-Sawme, G., Borgehammar, S., Edgardh, N., Fahlgren, S. & Sundmark, S. F. (Eds.), *Gudstjänstens mening* (p. 13-25). Artos

[I studied the relationship between migration, acculturation and liturgical change. By an analysis of published text in the diaspora I argued that acculturation has led to changes in the Syriac Orthodox liturgical tradition. More research was suggested with the gathering further empirical material.]

Bar-Sawme, G. (2016). Comparing the Syriac Order of the Consecration of Myron with the Order of Eucharistic Liturgy both in External Structure and in Theological Themes. *Syriac Orthodox Patriarchal Journal*, vol. 54. 1-26. 2016.

[In this article I study the consecration rite of the myron. In the article I argue, among other things, that the ritual of the consecration of the myron leads to a concentration of power to the patriarch of the Syriac Orthodox church. He consecrates the myron which is used in other rituals such as baptisms and consecration of churches.]

## **2. All publications**

### **Other publications including popular science books/presentations**

Bar-Sawme, G. (2017). Synen på Reformationen i Öst – om de lutherska reformatörernas försök att vinna stöd för sin uppfattning hos de ortodoxa. *Signum*. Issue 7, Uppsala.

Bar-Sawme, G. (2017). En oasis i förorten – Sankt Petrus och Paulus syrisk-ortodoxa kyrka. *Kyrkornas hemligheter: Stockholm*. Medströms bokförlag.

Bar-Sawme, G. (2022) [Review of the anthology *Moderne ortodokse kirker*. Samfundslitteratur. Saggau, E. H. (ed). (2017).] *Svensk teologisk kvartalstidskrift*, Vol 98 nr 1 (2022), pp. 73-75

Brock, S. P. (2015). *Den helige ande i den syrisk doptraditionen*. (G. Bar-Sawme, Övers. 1. uppl.). Södertälje: Syrisk ortodoxa kyrkans ungdomsförbund, SOKU

Karim, C. A. (2015). *Korsets symbol hos de tidiga syrisk kyrkofäderna*. (G. Bar-Sawme, Övers. 1. uppl.). Södertälje: Syrisk ortodoxa kyrkans ungdomsförbund, SOKU