

## **REV. AARON JOHN MICHKA, C.S.C.**

Department of Anthropology  
University of Notre Dame  
amichka@nd.edu

### **EDUCATION**

- 2021 Ph.D., Anthropology, University of Michigan.
- 2012 M.Sc., Social Anthropology, Oxford University.
- 2008 M.Div., Theology, University of Notre Dame.
- 2004 B.A., *magna cum laude*, Philosophy, University of Notre Dame.

### **AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

Geographic: Egypt and the Middle East.  
Research: Religion, Christianity, Anthropology and Theology, Pluralism, Placemaking and Landscape.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

- 2021 “Baptism in the Plural: Ethnographic Notes from a Coptic Ecumene.” *Journal of the Canadian Society for Coptic Studies*. 13: 47-64.

### **MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION**

- (Under review) “The Lives of Priests in the Coptic Theological Imagination.” Book chapter for *Anthropologies of Orthodox Christianity*, Fordham University Press.
- (In preparation) “Containing the Sacred: Place, Minority Politics, and the Church-adjacent in Coptic Christianity.” Journal article

### **DISSERTATION**

- 2021 *House, Church, Cave: Coptic Landscapes and the Demands of Pluralism in Upper Egypt*. Committee: Prof. Andrew Shryock (chair), Prof. Alaina Lemon, Prof. Erik Mueggler, Prof. Paul C. Johnson.

### **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

- 2022 Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Notre Dame.
- 2021 Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Anthropology, University of Notre Dame.
- 2020 Residential Fellow, Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study, University of Notre Dame.

### **CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**

- 2022 “Ancient & New: Caves, Monasteries, and the Emergent Coptic Landscape in Upper Egypt,” in *Settling for Unsettling Places: The Politics of Dwelling in Ambiguity*, at the AAA meetings in Seattle, WA.

- 2022 Paper respondent for the NDIAS Conference on Resilience, University of Notre Dame (invited).
- 2020 “Baptism in the Plural: Ethnographic Notes from a Coptic Ecumene,” at the Canadian Society for Coptic Studies Conference, University of Toronto (invited).
- 2020 Paper respondent for the Art, Desire, and God: Phenomenological Perspectives Conference, University of Notre Dame (invited).
- 2019 “Jerusalem Unintended: Freedom and Difference in a Coptic World Without Muslims,” in Utopia and Changing the Future: Anthropology’s Role in Imagining Alternatives, at the AAA meetings in Vancouver, BC.
- 2019 “A Sacred Palimpsest: Aural Confession, Religious Authority, and the Power of Words Withdrawn from Circulation,” Michiganian Graduate Student Conference in Linguistic Anthropology, University of Michigan.
- 2018 “Imagining Islam: How Christians Adapt to Muslim Absence in an Upper Egyptian Society,” in Egypt Inside and Out, at the AAA meetings in San Jose, CA.
- 2014 “Dialogue and Affect in an Egyptian Advice Column,” in Engaging Affect and Temporality in Anthropology, at the AAA meetings in Washington, D.C.

**INVITED TALKS**

- 2021 “Coptic Placemaking in a Sectarian World,” Fellows Seminar, Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study, University of Notre Dame, March 9.
- 2020 “Coptic Trust Mechanisms in a Sectarian World,” Fellows Seminar, Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study, University of Notre Dame, September 8.
- 2016 “To Whom Do We Belong? In Pursuit of Coptic Divorce in Egypt,” Research Colloquium, International Institute, University of Michigan, January 21.
- 2012 “Bridewealth in Contemporary Egypt,” Graduate Colloquium, Centre for Islamic Studies, Oxford University, March 19.

**GRANTS & AWARDS**

- 2016 Rackham International Research Award, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan.
- 2015 International Institute Individual Fellowship, International Institute, University of Michigan.
- 2014 Arabic Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies, University of Michigan.
- 2013 Rackham Merit Fellowship, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- 2022 Religion, Myth and Magic, University of Notre Dame.
- 2022 Introduction to Anthropology, University of Notre Dame.
- 2016 Anthropology of Religion, Prof. Webb Keane, University of Michigan (Graduate student instructor for Prof. Webb Keane).
- 2015 Introduction to Anthropology, University of Michigan (Graduate student instructor for Prof. Andrew Shryock).

**ACADEMIC SERVICE**

Reviewer for manuscripts submitted to journals:

*Comparative Studies in Society and History* since 2016

*Review for Religious* since 2020

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Anthropological Association (AAA), Society for the Anthropology of Religion (SAR)

**LANGUAGES**

English (Native), Modern Standard Arabic (Advanced), Egyptian Colloquial Arabic (Advanced), Spanish (Fluent), French (Proficient)