

Jacob Henke is a first year doctoral student in the University of Minnesota's Department of History. A graduate of the Classical and Near Eastern studies program at Minnesota, Jacob went on to earn his master's degree in Late Antique and Byzantine Studies at the University of Oxford. His academic interests lie at the intersection of the European, Levantine, and Asiatic contexts. In addition to exile and the diasporic religious communities of late antiquity and the early medieval period, his thematic interests include notions of heresy, the development of gnostic and apocalyptic literature, magic, mysticism, and the tumultuous shaping of religious identity in a world shifting between paganism, diverse Christianities, and Islam. The religious interactions between the Syriac Church of the East, Islam, and Buddhism and the development of syncretic faith systems along the Asiatic trade routes serve as his primary focus of his research.