

**Philip O Hopkins**  
***Professor of Missions***  
**Gateway Seminary**  
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## **Biography**

I am an American religious historian that lived outside the United States (Armenia, Turkey, United Kingdom) for almost 20 years analyzing ethnic and minority peoples and population segments in Iran, Turkey, and the Caucasus area. My main academic interest concerns how Christians in Iran – both ethnic Christians and those who converted to Christianity – interact among themselves and among the general population.

## **Education**

*Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)*, Iranian History. University of St Andrews, Scotland, 2019. Supervisor: Professor Ali M Ansari. Thesis: “Can I Play with Madness: American Missionaries in Iran during the 1960s and 1970s.”

*Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)*, Applied Theology. Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, North Carolina, 2005. Supervisor: Professor Keith E Eitel. Thesis: “Missions for the Glory of God: An Analysis of the Missionary Theology of John Piper.”

*Master of Arts (MA)*, Christian Education. Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, North Carolina, 1998.

*Bachelor of Arts (BA)*, History. The King’s College, New York, 1995.

## **Teaching and Research Experience**

1. *Professor of Missions*, Gateway Seminary (Ontario, California), 2023-Present.
2. *Professor of Church History*, Gateway Seminary (Ontario, California), 2022-2023.
3. *Associate Professor of Church History*, Gateway Seminary (Ontario, California) 2019-2022.
4. *Lecturer of Christianity and Islam, History of Ideas, and Worldviews*, Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) State University (Yerevan, Armenia), 2017-Present.
5. *Research Associate*, Centre for World Christianity, School of Oriental and African Studies (University of London, United Kingdom), 2018-2020.
6. *Adjunct Professor, Online Program*, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (Wake Forest, North Carolina), 2015.
7. *Adjunct Professor, Online Program*, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, (Fort Worth, Texas) 2010-2011.
8. *Adjunct Professor*, European Regional Academy of the Caucasus, Language Center (Yerevan, Armenia), 2006-2007.

9. *Adjunct Instructor, Applied Theology*, Southeastern College at Wake Forest (Wake Forest, North Carolina), 2004-2005.
10. *Teaching Fellow*, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (Wake Forest, North Carolina), 1999-2005.

### **Academic Affiliations**

1. American Academy of Religion
2. Association for Iranian Studies
3. The Association for the Study of Persianate Societies
4. British Institute of Persian Studies
5. Evangelical Missiological Society

### **Professional Experience**

1. Co-Organizer, *Evangelical Missiological Society Annual Southwest Regional Meeting, Gateway Seminary*, Ontario, California, 6 April 2024.
2. Editor (Applied Theology), *Gateway Journal of Theology*, 2023-Present.
3. *Founder and Managing Director*, Academics in Culture and Tourism (Yerevan, Armenia; Izmir, Turkey; London, United Kingdom; Richmond, Virginia), 2005-2023.
4. Co-Organizer on the Planning Committee, *The Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS) Biennial Conference, Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian-Armenian University and the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the National Academy of Sciences, Yerevan, Armenia*; 28 May-4 June 2023.
5. Chair of the Religion Session, *Second International Conference: Anatolia-the Caucasus-Iran Dedicated to the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Iran and the Caucasus (Brill); Institute of Oriental Studies Russian-Armenian University, Yerevan, Armenia*; 21-23 June 2022.\*
6. Organizing Committee, *Second International Conference: Anatolia-the Caucasus-Iran Dedicated to the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Iran and the Caucasus (Brill); Institute of Oriental Studies Russian-Armenian University, Yerevan, Armenia*; 21-23 June 2022.\*
7. Editor, *Yerevan Oriental Series* (Russian-Armenian University), 2021-Present.
8. Editorial Board and Ghost Writer, *Iran and the Caucasus* (Brill), 2007-Present
9. Founder and Managing Director, Academics Connecting Together, an educational consulting firm, 2005-2023.
10. United States Postal Service, 2000-2005; Managing Director, 2004-2005.

### **Ministerial Experience**

1. Ordained, *International Bible Church of Armenia*, Yerevan, Armenia, 26 March 2023.
2. Supply Preacher, *International Bible Church of Armenia*, Yerevan, Armenia, 2023.
3. International Worker, 2005-2023.
4. Co-Elder/Pastor (helped start a multi-ethnic church), Yerevan, Armenia, 2022.
5. Small Group Leader, *International Presbyterian Church*, London, United Kingdom, 2018.
6. Iranian Small Group Leader, *International Presbyterian Church*, London, United Kingdom, 2017-2020.
7. Small Group Leader, *Gunnersbury Baptist Church*, London, United Kingdom, 2012-2016.
8. Supply Preacher, *Yerevan International Church*, Yerevan, Armenia, 2005-2009.

9. Missions Director/Church Council, *Open Door Baptist Church*, Raleigh, North Carolina, 2002-2005.
10. Missions Director, *United Believers Fellowship* (a church plant), Raleigh, North Carolina, 1998.
11. Youth Director, *United Believers Fellowship* (a church plant), Raleigh, North Carolina, 1997.

### Works in Progress

1. *A History of Christianity in Iran from Biblical Times to Present*.
2. "George W Braswell, Jr., the First Foreign Mission Board Missionary to Iran (1967-1974)."
3. "Clash or Dialogue of Civilizations: An Examination of Samuel Huntington in Relation to Ayatollah Khatami," *Iran and the Caucasus*.
4. "Special or General Revelation: Dreams and Visions in the Islamic Conversion Experience."
5. *Notes from the Underground (Church): Interviews Conducted with Iranian Christians*.

### Books and Book Chapters

1. *John Piper, Calvinism, and Missions: A Way Forward* (Gonzalez, FL: Energion, 2024).
2. "The Forgotten Armenians," in *The Ethno-Cultural Others of Turkey: Contemporary Reflections*, ed. by Ahmet Kerim Gultekin and Cakir Ceyhan Suvari (Yerevan: Russian-Armenian University Press, 2021), 249-68. Translated into Turkish by Erdogan Boz (2022).
3. *American Missionaries in Iran during the 1960s and 1970s* (London: Palgrave MacMillan), 2020, paperback edition, 2021.
4. "Mission to Unreached People Groups," in *The Mission of God*, ed. by Bruce R Ashford (Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2011), 173-85.
5. *God's Desire for the Nations: The Missionary Theology of John Piper* (Gonzalez, FL: Energion, 2010).

### Refereed Journal Articles

6. "An Overview of the Missions Activities of the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Mission Board in Iran," *Iran and the Caucasus* 22:2 (2018): 168-76.
7. "Iran's Ethnic Christians: The Assyrians and The Armenians," *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 61:1 (2018): 137-52. Translation into Korean by Simon Lee in *Silk Wave Mission* (Sept 2021).
8. "Modern Western Christian Missions in Iran: The Connection Between Government and Missionary," *Iran and the Caucasus* 19:4 (2015): 299-309.
9. "On Why the United States Should Not Attack Iran: A Conservative, Evangelical Christian Response," co-written with Bruce R Ashford, *The Quarterly Journal of Political Studies of Islamic World* 1:1 [Imam Khomeini International University Qazvin, Iran] (Spring 2012): 21-33.

### Professional Presentations

10. "The Contemporary Use of 1960s and 1970s Practices of Foreign Mission Board Missionaries of the Southern Baptist Convention in Iran," *Evangelical Missiological Society Annual Southwest Regional Meeting, Gateway Seminary, Ontario, California*, 6 April 2024.
11. "A Christian Response to the Protests in Iran," *Russian-Armenian University's Serendipity Series, Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian-Armenian University, Yerevan, Armenia*, 9 Nov 2022.
12. "Westernization and Modernization of Christianity in Iran," *Second International Conference, Anatolia-the Caucasus-Iran: Dedicated to the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Iran and the Caucasus, Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian-Armenian University, Yerevan, Armenia*, 21-23 June 2022.
13. "Of When Wars are Just: The Examples of the Conflicts Between Ukraine (2022) and Georgia (2008) with Russia, and Armenia with Azerbaijan (1988-Present) Compared to the Wars by the United States Against Afghanistan (2001-2021) and Iraq (2003)," *Russian-Armenian University's Oriental Studies Series, Yerevan, Armenia*, 31 March 2022.
14. "The Calvinist Understanding of the Doctrine of Election in Relation to the Proclamation of the Gospel," *International Conference on Practical Theology, Qom, Iran*, 6-7 March 2022.
15. "The Transitioning Model of American Christianity in Iran during the Last Years of the Pahlavis," *25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Iran and the Caucasus (Brill)*, 1 June 2021, Yerevan, Armenia.
16. "In the Absence of Evidence: Mill and James Against Hume's 'On Miracles' in Conversation with Ancient Voices and Sacred Texts", with Adam Groza, *International Conference of Rationality, Theism and Atheism, The Institute of Iranian Philosophy*, 1-2 March 2021, Tehran, Iran.
17. "Proselytization Efforts of American Protestant Missionaries in Iran during the Last Years of the Pahlavis," *2020 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*, 21-24 Nov 2020, Boston, Massachusetts.
18. "Christian Missions in Gorgan," *Association for Iranian Studies Biennial Conference*; 14-17 Aug 2018, Irvine, California.
19. "Worldviews in Concept: A Comparison of Christianity and Islam," *The Sixth International Conference on Contemporary Philosophy of Religion*; 6-7 February 2018; Tehran, Iran (submitted and accepted, but visa denied).
20. "Southern Baptist Missions in Iran," *The Association for the Study of Persianate Societies Biennial Conference*; 8-11 Sept 2015, Istanbul, Turkey.
21. "Pain, Suffering, and Death to the Glory of God: An Explanation of Evangelical Theologian John Piper's Understanding of the Problem of Evil," *The International Conference on Contemporary Philosophy of Religion*; 23-24 December 2012, Tehran, Iran (submitted and accepted, but visa denied).
22. "Geographical Issues Facing Israel and the Middle East: Eschatological Fulfillment of the Promises of Land Made to the Jews," *International Conference: Middle East: Language, Literature, and History*, 20-21 Oct 2012, Yerevan, Armenia.

23. "A Conservative, Evangelical Response to US Foreign Policy towards Iran," *International Conference: The Turkic World, the Caucasus, and Iran – Crossroads of Civilizational Interaction*, 10-12 July 2009, Yerevan, Armenia.
24. "Muslims and Christians Together: Pain Suffering and Death to the Glory of God," *International Conference: Iran and the Caucasus: Unity and Diversity*, 6-8 June 2008, Yerevan, Armenia.
25. "Inspiration," *Macmillan Publishing Company*, 8 March 2007, Yerevan, Armenia.

### Interviews

26. Mohammad Memarian, "Israel, Palestine, and the Christian View of Eschatology Regarding the Current Conflict," *Iran TV 4*, upcoming.
27. Mohammad Memarian, "Alignment with the Shah Hurt Missionaries in the Long Run," *Iran Daily*, 12 Feb 2023: 7.
28. Mohammad Memarian, "Shah Baroyeh Takeem Ghadar Tash Pah az Gleemish dar az Tar Kard" [To Consolidate Power, the Shah Extended His Strength], *Iran Daily*, 10 Feb 2023:19.
29. Nima Alizadeh, *The Gospel Coalition*: "Missionaries in Iran," 31 Oct 2022.
30. Mohammad Memarian "The New Versus Old: Christianity in Iran," *Iran TV 4*, 24 Oct 2022.
31. Jeff Iorg, "Maintaining a Global Perspective with Dr Philip Hopkins," *Lead On Podcast*, 18 Sept 2022.
32. Mohammad Memarian, "A Catholic Theologian's Look into Gun Violence in the US: Ultimately, They Want to be God, to be in Control," *Iran Daily*, 8 June 2022: 10.
33. Mohammad Memarian, "Materialism is Killing the West," *Iran Daily*, 10 April 2022: 6.
34. Mohammad Memarian, "Christian Missions of a Dubious Nature," *Iran Daily*, 24 January 2022: 6.
35. Fatima Tofighi [assistant professor of religious studies at the University of Religions in Qom, Iran], "Islam and Modernization, Theological Considerations: A Woman's Role in Islam in Relation to a Woman's Role in Christianity," *University of Religions*, Qom, Iran, 9 Nov 2021.
36. Seyyed Hossein Nasr, "What is Islam and Its Relation to Christianity and the Modern World," *George Washington University*, Washington DC, 28 Oct 2021.
37. Keith R Parks [former president of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention], Murfreesboro, North Carolina, 4 April 2000. Transcript, *Southeastern SBC Historical Missiology Oral History Collection*, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, North Carolina.

### Select White Papers/Online Articles (full list available upon request)

38. White Paper: "A Christian's Response to the Protests in Iran," written to IMB missionaries to Iran, 4 Nov 2022.
39. White Paper: "The Dangers of Expatriate Iranian Messianic Jews Being Deported from the United States to Iran," part of information used in a federal court case, 21 Aug 2019, East Palo Alto, California.

40. "A Lesson American Evangelicals Can Learn from Iranian Christians Regarding Making Religious Liberty an Idol," *Academics Connecting Together*, 25 Sept 2018, Reprint: *Reformed Perspectives Magazine* 20:50 (9-15 Dec 2018). Reprint: "Idolizing Religious Liberty," *The Gateway Press*, Gateway Seminary, Ontario, California, (18 Feb 2022).
41. "Armenian Christianity in Iran," *Academics Connecting Together*, 17 April 2017.
42. "An Introduction to the History of Christianity in Iran," *Academics Connecting Together*, 20 July 2015.

**Select Popular Speaking Engagements** (full list available upon request)

43. "Teaching the Bible Cross-Culturally," *Bible Teaching Conference*, Gateway Seminary, Ontario, CA, 27 Jan 2024.
44. "Loving Our Muslim Neighbors," *Mongolia Baptist Association*, Gracepoint Church, Alameda, CA, 3-4 Nov 2023.
45. "Cultivating Holiness: Holiness Across Cultures," *Transform 2023*, Gateway Seminary, Ontario, CA, 19 Aug 2023.
46. "Calvinism: What it is and What it is Not," *Iranian Pastor's Training Conference*, Nicosia, Cyprus, 31 March 2023.
47. "Christian History in Iran," International Bible Church of Armenia, Yerevan, Armenia, 23 March 2023.
48. "A Theology of Christian Missions," Centre Baptist Church, Yerevan, Armenia, Young Adult Discipleship, 26 Nov 2022.

**Select Reviews** (full list available upon request)

49. *Muslim-Christian Polemics in Safavid Iran*, by Alberto Tiburcio, *Iran and the Caucasus* 25:2 (2021): 313-16.
50. *Revival and Awakening: American Evangelical Missionaries in Iran and the Origins of Assyrian Nationalism*, by Adam H Becker, *Academics Connecting Together*, 21 June 2018.
51. *Too Many to Jail: The Story of Iran's New Christians*, by Mark Bradley, *Iran and the Caucasus* 21:2 (2017): 249-50.
52. *The Carter Administration & the Fall of Iran's Pahlavi Dynasty: US-Iran Relations on the Brink of the 1979 Revolution*, by Javier Gil Guerrero, *Iran and the Caucasus* 21:1 (2017): 118-19. Translated into Farsi, by Ali Mohammad Azadeh, *The Database of Islamic Republic of Iran's Literature Office*, 18 Jan 2022.
53. *Religions of Iran: From Prehistory to the Present*, by Richard Foltz, *Iran and the Caucasus* 19:2 (2015): 199-200.
54. *Iran: A Very Short Introduction*, by Ali Ansari, *Iran and the Caucasus* 19:1 (2015): 115-16.
55. *The Politics of Nationalism in Modern Iran*, by Ali Ansari, *Iran and the Caucasus* 17:2 (2013): 235-37.
56. *Christian Encounters with Iran: Engaging Muslim Thinkers after the Revolution*, by Sasan Tavassoli, *Southwestern Journal of Theology* 54:2 (2012): 241-43.
57. *The Fervent Embrace: Liberal Protestants, Evangelicals, and Israel*, by Caitlin Carenen, *Southeastern Theological Review* 3:2 (Winter 2012): 271-72.
58. *Non-Muslims in the Early Islamic Empire: From Surrender to Coexistence*, ed. by Milka Levy-Rubin, *Iran and the Caucasus* 16:1 (2012): 265-66.

59. *Texts, Documents and Artefacts: Islamic Studies in Honour of D S Richards*, ed by Chase E Robinson, *Academics Connecting Together*, 18 May 2012.
60. *The Ayatollah's Democracy: An Iranian Challenge*, by Hooman Majd, *Between the Times*, 5 February 2011. Reprint: *Academics Connecting Together*, 18 May 2012.
61. *The Oxford Handbook of Iranian History*, ed. by Touraj Daryaee, *Academics Connecting Together*, 5 May 2012.
62. *Iran's Constitutional Revolution*, ed. by H. E. Chebabi and Vanessa Martin, *Iran and the Caucasus* 15:1 (2011): 337-41.
63. *Hafiz and the Religion of Love in Classical Persian Poetry*, ed. by Leonard Lewisohn, *Iran and the Caucasus* 14:2 (2010): 452-54.
64. *The World of Achaemenid Persia - History, Art and Society in Iran and the Ancient Near East*, ed. by John Curtis and St John Simpson, *Iran and the Caucasus* 14: 2 (2010): 459-60.
65. *Yek-Sad-o Shast Sal Mobahraze bah Deeyahnet Bahia: Gooshah-yi az Tarikh Ejtamah'a-yi – Deeni Iran dar Dorahn Ma'ahsar* [160 Years of Persecution: An Overview of the Persecution of the Baha'is of Iran], by Fereydun Vahman, *Iran and the Caucasus* 14:1 (2010): 192-95.
66. *Dschidad im Kaukasus: Antikolonialer Widerstand der Dagestaner und Tschetschenen gegen Zarenreich (18 Jahrhundert bis 1859)* [Jihad in the Caucasus: Anti-Colonial Resistance of the Dagestanis and Chechens against Tsarist Russia (18th Century to 1859)], by Clemens P Sidorko, *Iran and the Caucasus* 13:2 (2009): 434 [written with pen name].
67. *Herrschaft, Recht und Islam in Daghestan: Von den Khanaten und Gemeindebünden zum gihad-Staat* [Rule, Law and Islam in Dagestan: Khanates and Municipal Federations of the Jihad State], by Michael Kemper, *Iran and the Caucasus* 13:2 (2009): 432 [written with pen name].
68. *Horses in Asia: History, Trade and Culture*, ed. by Bert G Fragner, Ralph Kauz, Roderich Ptak, and Angela Schottenhammer, *Iran and the Caucasus* 13:2 (2009): 415-17.
69. *Osmanismus, Nationalismus und der Kaukasus: Muslime und Christen, Türken und Armenier im 19. und 20. Jahrhundert* [Ottomanism, Nationalism and the Caucasus: Muslims and Christians, Turks and Armenians in the 19th and 20th Centuries], ed. by Adanir Fikret and Bernd Bonwetsch, *Iran and the Caucasus* 13:2 (2009): 433.
70. *The Ayatollah Begs to Differ: The Paradox of Modern Iran* by Hooman Majd, in *Iran and the Caucasus* 13:1 (2009): 225-26.
71. *Al-Qaeda: The True Story of Radical Islam*, by Jason Burke, *Iran and the Caucasus* 13:1 (2009): 227-28.
72. *Method and Theory in the Study of Islamic Origins*, ed. by Herbert Berg, *Iran and the Caucasus* 12:1 (2008): 153-57.
73. *The Brill Dictionary of Religion*, ed. by Kocku von Stuckrad, *Iran and the Caucasus* 11:2 (2007): 315-18.