



University
of Victoria



(Re)discoveries in the Judaeen Desert: Fact, Fable, and Finding the Dead Sea Scrolls

Andrew Perrin

Thursday, November 7

5:00-6:00 p.m.

David Turpin Building, Room A110

As the Dead Sea Scrolls near their 75th anniversary, there remain many unanswered questions about the origins of these materials. While an oft-rehearsed “find story” accompanies them—a lost sheep, a shepherd boy tossing a stone, and the accidental discovery of a trove of manuscripts—this modern narrative developed and circulated as a fable. Interrogating find stories of the Dead Sea Scrolls and other manuscript discoveries provides unexpected views of the modern ideological interests in antiquities, the sordid colonial realities of antiquities acquisitions, and our romanticizing dusty objects that might help us reconcile our own broken past.

Andrew B. Perrin is Canada Research Chair in Religious Identities of Ancient Judaism at Trinity Western University. His research explores lost or forgotten aspects of ancient Jewish life, thought and culture using recently published Aramaic literature among the Dead Sea Scrolls.

<https://www.uvic.ca/research/centres/csrs/>