# Sergey Panfilov

PhD Student, Biblical Studies · Andrews University


## CONTACT

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Norwegian citizen · US permanent resident


## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Biblical theology and exegesis

Hebrew Bible: Pentateuch · Daniel

New Testament: Hebrews · Revelation

The heavenly-earthly sanctuary as hermeneutical center

Hermeneutics of contextualization

Sanctification in the Hebrew Bible

Septuagint and computational syntax

## LANGUAGES

### ANCIENT

Biblical Hebrew, Greek, Biblical Aramaic, Akkadian (doctoral coursework, grade A throughout); Ugaritic (in progress, Fall 2026)

### MODERN

Russian (native)
English, Norwegian (fluent)
Modern Hebrew (intermediate): Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Ulpan 1–4, 2023–2025; Rosen School of Hebrew, Ulpan 5, 2026
French, German (reading)

## HONORS AND AWARDS

Hebrew Placement Exam Award, Andrews University (2022)

W. Larry Richards Placement Exam Award (Greek), Andrews University (2022)

## EDUCATION

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| 2024 – present | **PhD, Old Testament (New Testament cognate)**<br>Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan. Expected completion 2030. GPA 4.00.<br>Dissertation (in development): a topic in sanctification in the Hebrew Bible, studied through syntax and semantic domains. |
| 2024 | **MA in Religion, Old Testament**<br>Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan. GPA 4.00.<br>Thesis: “The Polyvalent Stone Laid Before Joshua in Zechariah 3:9: An Exegetical and Intertextual Study.” |
| 2020 – 2021 | **Graduate coursework in Biblical Greek and Hebrew**<br>MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society, Oslo, Norway. |
| 2000 | **Master’s degree, Mechanics and Applied Mathematics**<br>Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia. Thesis: modeling of the ionization front. |

## PUBLICATIONS

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|---|---|
| 2030 | In preparation. Commentary on Leviticus and Hebrews. In *Study Bible: Books of the Holy Scripture of the Old and New Testaments in a Modern Russian Translation* (the Zaoksky Translation), edited by the Kulakovs. |
| 2027 | Forthcoming. “What Bends and What Never Moves: Carrying Christ’s Method Into a New Culture.” In *Through the Lens of Christ’s Method Alone: Conversations Toward a Theology of Cultural Transformation*. |

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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|---|---|
| 2026 | “The Anguish of the Flesh: Reassessing Jesus’s Prayer and Deliverance from Death in Hebrews 5:7.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Hebrews Section. Denver, November 23. |
| 2026 | “The Heavenly-Earthly Sanctuary Service as the Biblical Hermeneutical Center.” Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting, Studies in Biblical Theology. Denver, November 17. |
| 2026 | “What Bends and What Never Moves: Carrying Christ’s Method Into a New Culture.” Symposium “Through the Lens of Christ’s Method Alone: Conversations Toward a Theology of Cultural Transformation.” Andrews University, October 15. Respondent: Cedric Vine. |
| 2025 | “The Volitional Perfection of Jesus in Hebrews: A Proposal and Critique of Existing Views.” Adventist Theological Society Annual Meeting. Boston, November. |

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

Python · Text-Fabric · transformer models · Jupyter · C# · .NET · ASP.NET MVC · SQL Server · Azure · SharePoint · JavaScript · React · Node.js · DevOps · Scrum

## CERTIFICATIONS, 2000–2014

Microsoft Certified Solution Developer (.NET)

Microsoft Certified Database Administrator

Microsoft Certified Technology Specialist (SharePoint)

Programming in HTML5 with JavaScript and CSS3

## REFERENCES

Available on request.

## RESEARCH PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

2026 — Progress report on machine-learning syntax prediction for the Septuagint. MT–LXX project team (online, with European partners), February 13.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2025 – present — **Research Analyst, Center for Biblical Learning and Computing**

Andrews University. Project leads: Oliver Glanz (Andrews University) and Martijn Naaijer.

MT–LXX Text-Fabric database (in development; public repository since January 2026): clause-level cross-queries between the Masoretic Text and the Septuagint.

Transformer models trained on the syntactically annotated Greek New Testament to predict sub-phrase, phrase, clause, and sentence boundaries in the Septuagint; sub-phrase F-score 95.2% in the best configuration, up from a 93.2% baseline (reported February 2026).

Adapted the Macula XML to Text-Fabric converter for Hebrew and Septuagint data (about 50 features); comparison of MT–LXX alignment datasets.

## DIGITAL RESEARCH OUTPUTS

2026– — Center for Biblical Learning and Computing. *MT–LXX Text-Fabric Database*. In development. GitHub. https://github.com/CenterBLC/MT-LXX. Researcher, with Saulo Cantanhede and Beniel Paulraj.

2025– — Panfilov, Sergey. *LXX-Link: Macula and MT–LXX conversion tools for Text-Fabric*. GitHub. https://github.com/sergpanf/LXX-Link-P.

## SELECTED DOCTORAL COURSEWORK

Biblical and Theological Hermeneutics (Jerome Skinner) · Advanced Greek Grammar and Syntax (Felix Cortez) · Textual Criticism (Oliver Glanz) · Dead Sea Scrolls (Roy Gane) · Biblical Aramaic (Roy Gane) · Akkadian (Roy Gane) · Ugaritic (Roy Gane, in progress) · Seminar in Biblical Theology (Oliver Glanz) · Topics in Revelation (Ranko Stefanovic) · Teaching Religion in College (John V. G. Matthews)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

2015 – 2020 — **Owner and CEO, Softek Point AS, Norway**

Independent consultancy: architecture and integration of Microsoft-stack systems for about seven Scandinavian companies, including Den Norske Turistforening and Cambi.

2008 – 2015 — **Senior Consultant, Columbus IT, Norway**

System integrations for more than 24 European clients, including Handelsbanken, Navico, TNS Gallup, and Elanders; led small development teams.

2004 – 2008 — **Senior Developer, Dell, Moscow (team managed from Ireland)**

Enterprise .NET development and system integration.

2000 – 2004 — **Technical Expert and Database Administrator, Parsons, Moscow**

Database administration and technical expertise for the US engineering firm's Moscow operations.