

April 11, 2011

Curriculum Vitae

Spencer Dew

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Ames, IA 50014

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Education

University of Chicago Divinity School, MA, June 2001; PhD, June 2009

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Biblical Hebrew ulpan, summer 2003

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Modern Hebrew ulpan, summer 2002

Naropa Institute Summer Writing Program, 1997

University of Wisconsin College Year in India, 1995-96, Hyderabad and Bombay

College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio, BA in Religious Studies, June 1997

Dissertation

"Pedagogy and Community: Kathy Acker's 'Talmudic Mode'"

Advisor, Michael Fishbane

Committee: Richard Rosengarten and Michael Hardin

Qualifying Examinations

Rabbinics; Modern Jewish Thought; Literary Theory; Autobiography and Autobiographical Writing

Teaching Experience

Iowa State University, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies

Visiting lecturer, academic year 2010-2011

Courses taught: World Religions, Social Dimensions of Religion, Religions of India

Independent study directed: Buddhism in America

Loyola University Chicago, Department of Theology and Religious Studies

Adjunct Instructor, spring 2008, fall 2008, academic year 2009-2010

Courses taught: Introduction to the Study of Religion, Introduction to Hinduism

Independent study directed: Theories and Methods for Religious Studies

Chicago Police Department BA program (via St. Xavier University)

Adjunct instructor, summer session 2009 and 2010 (and summer of 2011)

Courses taught: Religion and Law: Religious Crime, Introduction to Islam

St. Xavier University, Department of Religious Studies

Adjunct instructor, summer session 2008 and spring semester 2009

Courses taught: The Hindu Tradition, Introduction to Islam

St. Xavier University, Department of Philosophy

Adjunct instructor, spring semester 2005 through fall semester 2007

Courses taught: Introduction to Philosophy, Introduction to Ethics

Papers Presented at Academic Conferences (Selected)

“‘This Nationalistic Topic’: Internal Debates about Nationality and Citizenship in the Moorish Science Temple of America, 1925-1935” (Accepted for forthcoming American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Francisco, California, November 2011)

“‘It has fallen upon you to finish what began at Auschwitz’: *The Unborn*, Holocaust Fictionalization, and the Responsibilities of Jewish Memory” (Accepted for forthcoming American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Francisco, California, November 2011)

“‘There are Texts Involved’: The Reception of Tariq Ramadan,” March 27, 2010, Midwest American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Rock Island, Illinois

“‘Some Ultimate Faith and Love’: James Baldwin’s Moral Mission,” March 27, 2010, Midwest American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Rock Island, Illinois

“Devotion to Solipsism: Religious Thought and Practice in Jack Kerouac’s *Tristessa*,” November 8, 2009, American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Montreal, Quebec

“Love, Friendship, and the Tragic American Reality in James Baldwin’s Work,” October 30, 2009, Society for Utopian Studies annual meeting, Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina

“Religious Crisis and the Function of Literature: the Case of Norman Mailer and *Armies of the Night*,” April 4, 2009, Midwest American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Chicago, Illinois

“Hutus, Tutsis, *Genocidaires*, and Our Sort of Folk: The Ethics of Empathy and In-Group Construction in Philip Gourevitch’s *We Wish to Inform You that Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our Families*,” March 27, 2009, National College English Association, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

“Textual Communities, Liminal Utopias: Kathy Acker, Maurice Blanchot, and Roland Barthes,” October 31, 2008, Society of Utopian Studies Annual Conference, Portland, Maine.

“Irony, Experience, and the Black Body of Voodoo Practice in Zora Neale Hurston’s Writings,” October 4, 2008, Religion Matters: Material Effects of Religion on Bodies, a Graduate Student Colloquium, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

“Book as Gift: Kathy Acker’s Utopian Reading of *Wuthering Heights*,” October 6, 2007, Society of Utopian Studies Annual Conference, Toronto, Ontario

“Martin Buber as a Model of Reading,” April 13, 2007, National College English Association, New Orleans, Louisiana

Publications 1: Books

Learning for Revolution: The Work of Kathy Acker (San Diego State University Press, 2011)

Mont-Saint-Michel and Chartres (fiction; Another New Calligraphy, 2010)

Songs of Insurgency (short stories; Vagabond Press, 2008)

Publications 2: Essays (selected)

- “You Are Not Your Star Sign,” *Religion Dispatches*, January 31, 2011
- “Religion, Democracy, and the Censorship of ‘Fire in My Belly,’” *Sightings*, December 23, 2010
- “Beyond Christianity of Creed: Religion of Realism from a Chicago Cop,” *Religion Dispatches*, November 18, 2010
- “Crying Witch: Learning from the O’Donnell ‘Dabbling’ Debacle,” *Religion Dispatches*, October 28, 2010
- “Sovereign Citizenship, Religion, and Law: The Case of Moorish Science,” *Sightings*, July 29, 2010
- “An Atheist’s Idealized Christianity: The Dangerous Theological Fantasies of Ayaan Hirsi Ali,” *Religion Dispatches*, May 26, 2010
- “The Unreality of Human Suffering: Ethical Ramifications of Jack Kerouac’s Concept of Heaven,” *Religion and Culture Web Forum*, April 2010
- “Is the Devil a Black Man?” *Sightings*, January 21, 2009
- “Tariq Ramadan in Montreal: Defining Ethics in Terms of Religion,” *Religion Dispatches*, November 20, 2009
- “On Muslims and Miniature Horses,” *Sightings*, October 22, 2009
- “Pigs, Plagues, Politics, and Religion,” *Sightings*, May 14, 2009
- “Art, Education, and Political Engagement,” *Chicago Artists’ News*, Volume XXXV, Number 10, November 2008
- “‘Nothing New Under the Sun’: Christianity and Contemporary Art,” *Chicago Artists’ News*, Volume XXXV, Number 8, September 2008
- “Five Frames for Adrian Tomine,” *Kartika Review: An Asian-American Literary Journal*, Issue 3, Summer 2008
- “Ethics, Interpretation, and Pedagogy: Martin Buber and the Undergraduate Literature Classroom,” *CEA Forum*, 36.1, Winter/Spring 2007

Publications 3: Book and Art Reviews (selected)

I’ve been a regular reviewer for *Rain Taxi Review of Books* since fall of 2005, publishing on average 7 reviews a year, focusing in particular on issues of religion. Recent reviews have included treatments of on Ayaan Hirsi Ali, Tariq Ramadan, Roland Barthes on the neutral, a biography of Taha Muhammad Ali, recent Hindu-themed comic books, and *A Wall in Palestine*. Forthcoming reviews deal with the Arabic poet Adonis, Roland Barthes on the novel, the uncollected work of James Baldwin, *The Sexual Life of an Islamist in Paris*, and a review essay on the context and ideology of Aleister Crowley’s oeuvre.

Since early 2010 I've been Staff Book Reviewer for the on-line literary website *decomp*, publishing on average four book notes or short reviews a month; from winter to summer of 2010 I wrote monthly art reviews for *Newcity Chicago*, a free weekly paper; from winter 2009 to winter 2010 I wrote art and book reviews, along with occasional essays, for the monthly *Chicago Artists' News*, on average two pieces per month.

Other selected reviews include:

Review of Natalie Moore and Lance Williams, *The Almighty Black P Stone Nation: The Rise, Fall, and Resurgence of an American Gang*, *Religion Dispatches* (Forthcoming, April 2011)

Review of Alistair McCartney, *The End of the World Book: A Novel*, *Chicago Review* 54:4, Spring 2009

Review of Tracy McNulty, *The Hostess: Hospitality, Femininity, and the Expropriation of Identity*, *Journal of Religion* Volume 87, Fall 2007

Review of Gabriel Pomerand, *Saint Ghetto of the Loans, Grimoire*, *Chicago Review* 53: 2/3, Fall 2007

Related Work Experience

Religion and Culture Web Forum

The Martin Marty Center of the University of Chicago Divinity School

1025 East 58th Street, Room #013, Chicago, IL 60637

Editor, September 2008 to July 2009

Ethics: An International Journal of Social, Political, and Legal Philosophy

1025 East 58th Street, Room #007, Chicago, IL 60637

Editorial Assistant, June 2006 to September 2008

University of Chicago Divinity School

Office Assistant, Dean of Students Office, 1998-2002

Assistant to the Dean (Recruiter), 2001-2003

Honors and Awards

Short-Term Fellow, Black Metropolis Research Consortium, Summer 2011

Martin Marty Center Junior Fellow, 2007-2008

Wabash Pedagogy Seminar Fellowship, 2006

William Daniel Cobb Alumni Scholarship, 2005-2006

Stephen and Ruth Durschlag Fellowship, 2003-2004

Jewish Studies travel grant, 2002

Edward Scribner Ames Scholarship, 2002-2003 and 2007-2008

David L Zemsky Scholarship, summer 2002

William Barnett Blakemore Scholarship, 2000-2001

Disciple Divinity House Scholarship, 1998-2001; 2002-2009