

Religion, Literature, and Visual Culture

Faculty

Jaś Elsner, Visiting Professor of Art and Religion; Associate Faculty, Department of Art History (PhD, King's College, Cambridge)

Sarah Hammerschlag, Associate Professor of Religion and Literature, Philosophy of Religions and History of Judaism (PhD, University of Chicago)

Karin Krause, Assistant Professor of Byzantine Theology and Visual Culture; Affiliate Faculty, Department of Art History (MA, University of Bonn; PhD, University of Munich)

Richard A. Rosengarten, Dean and Associate Professor of Religion and Literature (MA, PhD, University of Chicago)

Associated Faculty

Philip Bohlman, Mary Werkman Distinguished Service Professor of Music and the Humanities in the College (PhD, University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign)

Christopher J. Wild, Associate Professor in the Department of Germanic Studies and the College; Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Germanic Studies (PhD, Johns Hopkins University)



Religion, Literature, and Visual Culture uses the tools of poetics and literary theory, aesthetics, and hermeneutics to study the ways that religions harness the human imagination, and the ways that human recourse to imaginative expression often—some would say always—engages religion. Students who concentrate in the area pursue intensive work in criticism, usually via study of particular historical periods and genres; they supplement this work with studies in the history and philosophy of interpretive theory. Students in the area also complete significant work in at least one other area of study in the Divinity School, and are strongly encouraged to develop a curriculum in a department or division of the University that is relevant to their program.

For more information, contact

Teresa Hord Owens

Dean of Students

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773.702.8217

 UChicago Divinity School

Recent Graduates

Alan Levinovitz, PhD 2012

"The Concept of Toy—At Play with the Zhuangzi"
Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion,
James Madison University

M. Cooper Harriss, PhD 2011

"Race and the Religious Unconscious: Ralph
Ellison's Invisible Theology"
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Indiana
University

Ed Upton, PhD 2010

"T. S. Eliot's Skilful Means: Indian Upaya, Ascetic
Cultivation, and the Struggle Against Pessimism
in 'The Waste Land'"
Assistant Professor of Humanities, Valparaiso
University's Christ College

Zhan'ge Ni, PhD 2009

"The Pagan Writes Back: Hetero-Religiosity,
Heterology, and Heterogenous Space in Four
Contemporary Novels"
Assistant Professor of Religion and Culture,
Virginia Tech

Spencer Dew, PhD 2009

"Pedagogy and Community: Kathy Acker's
'Talmudic Mode'"
Assistant Professor of Religion Studies,
Centenary College of Louisiana

Graduate Workshops

The Council on Advanced Studies (CAS) sponsors interdisciplinary graduate research workshops in the humanities, social sciences, and divinity, designed to bring together faculty and graduate students from the University of Chicago and the wider Chicago area to create scholarly dialogue, to encourage cross-disciplinary collaboration, and to foster the exchange of ideas. Workshops include Middle East History and Theory, Medieval Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Religions in America, Early Christian Studies, Jewish Studies, and Hebrew Bible. In addition, the Divinity Students Association offers a range of workshops and clubs: one for each area and others according to student interest. Current groups include Buddhist Studies, the Women's Caucus, and The Sacred Flame. To learn more, visit divinity.uchicago.edu/clubs-and-workshops.

Recent Courses

Our faculty teach over 100 courses each year in the academic study of religion. Please visit divinity.uchicago.edu/courses for current and past course offerings.

- **Iconoclasm and Animation** (Elsner)
- **Early Christian Art** (Krause)
- **Poetry and Theory: Mallarme** (Meltzer/Marion)
- **The Other and the "Exotic" in Postwar Jewish Writing** (Hammerschlag)
- **Derrida's 'Of Grammatology'** (Hammerschlag)
- **Theories of Art in the Twentieth Century: Historiography, Religion and Crisis.** (Elsner)
- **Animal Spirituality in the Middle Ages** (Robinson)
- **Between Vienna and Hamburg: From Deutschland to America: Writing of Art History Between 1900 and 1960** (Elsner)
- **Tragedy: Theory and Texts** (Rosengarten)
- **The Veneration of Icons in Byzantium: History, Theory and Practice** (Krause)
- **Byzantine Art: Iconography** (Krause)
- **Medieval Commentaries on Ecclesiastes** (Robinson)
- **Novel Comparisons** (Rosengarten)
- **Victor Hugo** (Meltzer)
- **Religion and Literature in France 1954-1972** (Hammerschlag)
- **Subject/Subjectivity** (Meltzer)
- **Theory and Autobiography** (Rosengarten)
- **Religion and Literature in France** (Hammerschlag)
- **History of Criticism and Hermeneutics, Sixteenth-Nineteenth Centuries** (Rosengarten)
- **Blake's Theology in Poetry and Prints** (Rosengarten)
- **Baudelaire, Benjamin and Blanchot** (Meltzer)



The University of Chicago Library

Our library is one of the largest and richest research collections (both in print and online formats) in the world. Religious Studies has been a core component of the collection since the University's founding, and its current strengths

match the research needs of the areas of study in the Divinity School. The Library has a full-time Bibliographer for Religion and Philosophy who holds workshops specifically designed for those studying religion. To learn more visit library.uchicago.edu.

In keeping with its long-standing traditions and policies, the University of Chicago considers students, employees, applicants for admission or employment, and those seeking access to University programs on the basis of individual merit. The University's complete non-discrimination statement and full contact information for the compliance officer, Sarah Wake (swake@uchicago.edu) can be found online: <http://harassmentpolicy.uchicago.edu/page/non-discrimination-statement>.

