

Sarah Hammerschlag
Curriculum Vitae

5736 S. Blackstone Avenue,
Chicago, IL 60637

University of Chicago
The Divinity School
1025 E. 58th Street
Swift Hall, 300E
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Professional Appointments

Professor of Religion, Literature and Visual Culture, History of Judaism, Philosophy of Religions and in the college, 2021-

Director of MA Program, 2015-2018, 2020-2022

Chair of Diversity and Inclusion committee, 2020-2022

Diversity and Inclusion Liaison, 2020-2022

Associate Professor of Religion, Literature and Visual Culture, History of Judaism, Philosophy of Religions, 2016-2021

Assistant Professor of Religion and Literature. University of Chicago Divinity School, 2013-2016.

Associate Professor of Jewish Thought, Williams College, 2011-2013

Visiting Associate Professor, University of Chicago Divinity School and the college 2011-2012

Assistant Professor, Williams College, 2006-2011

Education

The University of Chicago, Ph.D. in The Philosophy of Religion, 2006

The University of Chicago, A.M. in Religious Studies, 2001

Hollins College, M.A. in English, 1997

Wesleyan University (Middletown, CT) B.A. in the College of Letters, 1996

Publications

Monographs and Co-authored Volumes:

Devotion: Three Inquiries on Religion, Literature and Politics. Co-authored with Amy Hollywood and Constance Furey (University of Chicago Press, 2021).

Broken Tablets: Levinas, Derrida and the Literary Afterlife of Religion (Columbia University Press, 2016)

The Figural Jew: Politics and Identity in Post-War French Thought (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2010)

Honorable Mention, Jordan Schnitzer Book Prize, Association for Jewish Studies, 2012

Finalist, Best First Book in History of Religions, American Academy of Religion, 2011

Sowers and Sages: The Renaissance of Judaism in Postwar Paris (Under advance contract with the University of Chicago Press).

Edited Volumes:

Critical Terms for Religious Studies, Second Edition (Under Advance Contract with the University of Chicago Press)

Modern French Jewish Thought: Writings on Religion and Politics (Brandeis University Press, 2018)

Edited Journal Issues:

Levinas Studies 13 Special Issue: Levinas Reading, Fall 2020.

Journal Articles:

“Emerging from the Marrano Complex: Levinas and the Therapy of the Colloque des Intellectuels Juifs de Langue Française” *Levinas Studies* 14 (2021)

“A World without Contours: Levinas’s Critique of Literary Freedom,” *Levinas Studies* 13 (2020).

“Levinas and Sartre: Existentialism after the Stalag,” *Yale French Studies*, January 2020.

“Believing in the USA: Derrida, Melville and the Great American Charlatan,” *Political Theology*, November 3, 2019

“Truth for Children,” *Harvard Divinity Bulletin*, Fall/Winter 2018-2019

“Revolution and the Jews,” *Political Theology* 17.3 (2016)

“Outside the Canon: Judith Butler and the Trials of Jewish Philosophy” *Political Theology* 16.4 (2015)

“On Monstrous Shoulders: Literature, Fraud and Faith in Derrida,” *Research in Phenomenology* 43.1 (2013)

“A Splinter in the Flesh: Levinas and the Resignification of Jewish Suffering, 1928-1947” *International Journal of Philosophical Studies* 30.3 (2012)

“The Last and the Least of the Jews: Figuring the Jew in Postwar French Thought,” *Jewish Quarterly*, February 22, 2011

“Literary Unrest: Blanchot, Levinas and the Proximity of Judaism,” *Critical Inquiry* 36.4 (2010)

“Blanchot and Levinas, An Exchange of Letters.” Translation and Introduction, *Critical Inquiry* 36.4 (2010)

“Reading May ‘68 Through a Levinasian Lens: Alain Finkielkraut, Maurice Blanchot and the politics of Identity” *Jewish Quarterly Review*, 98.4 (2008)

“Another, Other Abraham” *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*, 26.4 (2008)

“Troping the Jew: Jean François Lyotard’s *Heidegger and ‘the jews,’*” *Jewish Studies Quarterly*, 12.4 (2005)

Book Chapters:

“On Jewish Fiction and Belief: *Operation Shylock’s* Duplicitous Confession” *Routledge Handbook on Fiction and Belief*, (Routledge Press, 2023)

“Nietzsche’s Janus-Faced Figurations and his French-Jewish Readers, ”*Nietzsche and Literary Studies*, (Cambridge UP, 2023)

“Emmanuel Levinas” in *Dictionnaire Maurice Blanchot*, (Classiques Garnier, 2023)

“The Graft of the Cat: Derrida, Kofman and the Question of the Animal” *Religion in Reason* (Routledge, 2022)

“Algerian Echoes in Modiano and Perec’s Cityscapes of Holocaust Memory” *Jewish Shadows on the City of Lights* (SUNY Press, 2021)

“Nearly Neighbors: Philosophy of Religion and its close encounters with Modern Jewish Thought,” *The Future of the Philosophy of Religion* (Boston University Press, Fall 2020)

“Levinas’s Prison Notebooks,” *Oxford Handbook to Emmanuel Levinas* (Oxford UP, 2019)

“Losing One’s Head: Derrida and the Politics of Religion and Literature,” *Derrida-Levinas: An Alliance Awaiting the Political* (Mimesis International Press, 2018)

“The Last Jewish Intellectual,” *Jews and the ends of Theory* (Fordham UP, 2018).

“Poetics of the Broken Tablet,” *The Trace of God*, Peter Gordon and Edward Baring, eds. Fordham University Press, 2014

“Bad Jews, Authentic Jews, Figural Jews: Badiou and the Politics of Exemplarity” in *Judaism, Liberalism and Political Theology*, Randi Rashkover and Martin Kavka, eds. Indiana University Press, 2013

“Malos judíos, auténticos judíos, judíos figurales: Badiou y la política de la ejemplaridad” in *Violencias e Historias Alteradas: debates en filosofía política contemporánea*, Carlos Andres Manrique Ospina and Maria del Rosario Acosta López, ed. Universidad de los Andes Press, 2013

Online Publications:

“Free for the Taking: Susan Taubes and the Lure of Literature” *Political Theology Network*, forthcoming

“#Times Up and the Myth of Neutral Space,” *Religion and Culture Forum*, May 30, 2018

“Novel Enclosures or Reading for Confinement,” *The Immanent Frame: Secularism, Religion and the Public Sphere*, October, 2017

“Rock, Paper Scissors,” *Sightings*, February 9, 2017

“After Charlie Hebdo: The Representation of Jews and Muslims in France,” *The Critique*, January 7, 2016

“Judaism and Zionism in Judith Butler’s Parting Ways,” *Political Theology Today*, March 25, 2014

“The Figural Jew,” Martin Marty Center Religion and Culture Web Forum, October 2010. Response by Jonathan Boyarin

Response to Jeffrey Israel’s “The Capability of Play,” Martin Marty Center Religion and Culture Web Forum, January 2009

“Ghosts of Days Past,” in *Sightings*, August 26, 2004. Reprinted on History News Network, August 27, 2004

Reviews:

“Adam Zachary Newton’s *Jewish Studies as Counterlife*, *AJS Review*, April, 2022

“Noreen Khawaja’s *The Religion of Exisence*, *JAAR*, October 2018

“Maurice Samuels’ *The Right to Difference*”, H-Net France, September, 2017

“Orietta Ombrosi’s *The Twilight of Reason*, H-Net Judaic, May, 2013

“Benjamin Lazier’s *God Interrupted*,” *American Historical Review*, June 2011

“Steven Shakespeare’s *Derrida and Theology*,” *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (August 3, 2010)

“Dana Hollander’s *Exemplarity and Chosenness*,” *Journal of Religion*, 89:4, p. 614-616 (October 2009)

“Martin Kavka’s *Jewish Messianism and the History of Philosophy*,” *Journal of Religion* 89:1, p. 140-142 (2009)

“Esther Benbassa’s *The Jew and the Other*,” *Journal of Religion* 87:1, p. 119-121 (January 2007)

“Samuel Moyn’s *Origins of the Other*,” *Journal of Religion* 87:1, p. 127-128 (January 2007)

Select Invited Lectures and Presentations

“Introducing French Judaism” *Oxford University*, February 8, 2023

“As old as the world,” Keynote Address, University of Chicago Jewish Studies Undergraduate Conference, March 26, 2023

“*Devotion* Book Panel,” Respondent. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 21, 2022

“Religion of Revelation: Levinas on Judaism and Christianity,” *The Contribution of Theology to Rationality: A Conference in honor of Jean-Luc Marion*, November 2, 2022

“Levinas and the Anxiety of other forms of otherness” *Sixty Years to the Algerian War: Interculturality in a Post-colonial Age*, Berlin Center for Intellectual Diaspora, October 26, 2022

“Does the World Need Jews? Jewish Exemplarity and the Anxiety of Other Forms of Otherness,” Washington University, October 20, 2022

“Jewish Fiction and Belief” Fiction and Belief Handbook workshop, Paris, University of Chicago Paris Center, June 28, 2022

“Beyond the Threshold: Nietzsche and Jewish Survival Between Sarah Kofman and Jacques Derrida” Sarah Kofman Journée d’étude, University of Chicago Paris Center, June 18, 2022

“Religion After: Emmanuel Levinas and the Crafting of a post-Christian Judaism,” Taubman Endowed Lecture, Santa Barbara, CA, May 15, 2022

“On the Fetish as a Critical Term for Religious Studies,” Humanities and Social Change Center at the University of California, Santa Barbara, May 16, 2022.

“Devotion panel with Amy Hollywood and Constance Furey,” University of Chicago Divinity School, May 2, 2022

“The Mystery of Encounter,” *Aims of Education Address*, September 24, 2021

“Intellectual History and Philosophy in Modern Jewish Thought” Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, September 17, 2022.

“French Judaism and the category of Race,” Princeton University Seminar, *Roots, Rootlessness and Fin de siècle France* with Christy Wampole, March 2021

“In Denial: Philosophy and the Fear of Death,” *Night of Ideas*, Field Museum, January 30, 2020

“Aligning with the West: Levinas and Judeo-Christian Hyphen,” *Jewish Difference Under Empire*, University of Chicago Divinity School, November 19, 2019

Panel on the History of the Field, *Religion’s Turn: A Chicago-Area Graduate Conference in the Continental Philosophy of Religions*, University of Chicago Divinity School October 25

“Two Enemies and an Unfathomable Story: Sarah Kofman, and Jacques Derrida on Religion, Literature and the Fetish,” University of Buffalo, October 2, 2019

“I Wish You What You Wish Me: Jokes, Forgiveness, Shame and the Social,” The Annual Phillip Hallie Lecture, Wesleyan University, May 24, 2019

“The Postwar Project of Recasting the Jewish Intellectual,” The Hyphenated Jew Conference, University of Minnesota, May 6, 2019

“Emerging from the Marrano Complex: Levinas and the Therapy of the Colloque des Intellectuels Juifs de Langue Française” *Levinas Studies* Conference, Penn State, March 15, 2019

“Fetish and Fiction: Religion, Literature and the Political ,” Yale University, February 21, 2019.

“Fetish and Fiction: Religion, Literature and the Political,” Georgetown University Workshop on Religion and Politics, February 15, 2019

“From Idyll to Testimony: Fidelity in the Thought of Sarah Kofman,” Indiana University Workshop on Religion and Literature, January 21, 2019

“Abraham and the Politics of Exemplarity,” *Abramic Religions: Between Scholarship and Practice*, Harvard Divinity School, September 26, 2018

“Cringing toward Bethlehem,” *Religion and the Media Conference*, Harvard Divinity School September 20-21, 2018.

“Truth for Children: Suffering and Election in Postwar French Jewish Thought,” The Albert and Vera List Jewish Studies Lecture at Harvard Divinity School, October 18, 2017

“Believing in the U.S.A.: Derrida, Melville and the Great American Charlatan,” *Prophetic Politics Conference*, Jewish History Museum, NY, September 2017

“Take him at his word: Faith, Fraud and Autobiography in the work of Jacques Derrida,” Journée autobiographique, l’Université de Chicago à Paris, June 2017

“Losing One’s Head: Derrida and the Politics of Religion and Literature,” *Derrida-Levinas: Awaiting the Political*, Rome, Sapienza, October 2016

“ ‘All that are left of the House of Israel,’: The Revival of Judaism in World War II France and its Postwar Impact,” Dartmouth College, July 26, 2016

“Algerian Echos in Modiano and Perec’s Cityscapes of Holocaust Memory,” *Symposium on Paris in Postwar Memory*, York University, May 25, 2016

“Not a Pin to Choose between Us” *Religion and Literature Seminar*, ACLA, March 19, 2016

“Jewish Thought and the History of Philosophy of Religion” Boston University Symposium on the Future of Philosophy of Religion, February 26, 2016

“A World Without Contours: Levinas’s Critique of Literary Freedom” *Levinas, Law and Literature*, January 20, 2016

“Jewish Suffering and Levinas’s Wartime Notebooks” Heidegger and Levinas during the war, APA, January 6, 2016

“Digging up Graves and Casting Stones” Future of the Continental Philosophy of Religion, AAR, November 2015.

“Levinas and Derrida, Irony and Jewish thought,” University of Toronto, November 16, 2015

“Three Jewish Responses to Heidegger” *Tainted Greatness: Heidegger and the Jews*: An international Symposium. Jewish Culture in Sweden, Stockholm, October 18, 2015

“Literature and the political-theological remains” Rutgers University, *People of the Book, People of Books*, April 24, 2015

“Modern French Jewish Thought: Considering its history and Evaluating its contributions” Brandeis University, April 14, 2015

“School of the prophets: The Renaissance of Judaism in postwar Paris” Boston University, April 13, 2015

“Literature and the Ruin of the World,” *Levinas Reading Conference*, April 8, 2015. (Conference organizer)

“The Dream of Robert Gamzon,” Indiana University, October 23, 2014

“Between the Jew and Writing,” *Derrida’s Jewish Specters* (conference), Cornell University, September 16, 2014

“Figure of the Jew and the New Universalism,” *Troubling Legacies: Anti-Judaism in Antiquity*, Yale Program for the Study of Anti-Semitism, September 8, 2014

“‘What must a Jewish thinker be?’: Levinas, Derrida and the Politics of Jewishness,” Pomona University, April 25, 2014.

Figural Jews—A conference. Keynote Address: “All the rest is Literature: Levinas, Derrida and the legacy of being Jewish,” April 17, 2014

“States of Exception: Zionism and the Messianic Impulse in *l’école juive de Paris*,” *Symposium: The Messianic Impulse Revisited*, University of Wisconsin, March 25, 2014

“Authority in the Classroom” Religion and Literature Craft of Teaching Workshop, January 27, 2014

“Inventing the Poetic Idiom: Derrida, Kant and the Democracy to Come,” MLA, Chicago, January, 9, 2014

“Disseminating Jewish Universalism in postwar Paris: *Targoum* and the Colloque,” AJS, Boston, December 15, 2013

“Jewish Destiny and the Historical Order: Levinas’s Experiments with Zionism in the 1950’s” AAR, Baltimore MD, November 27, 2013

“Bartleby and the Passions of Literature” SPEP, Eugene, OR, October 24, 2013

“The Last Jewish Intellectual: Derrida and the literary turn in practices of Jewish identification,” Jews and the Ends of Theory Conference. Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill, May 1, 2013

“Under the law of Gravity: Susan Taubes and the problem of Jewish Identification” Jacob & Susan Taubus and their circles, an international conference, UCLA, March 19, 2013

“Saving Reason, Saluting Fiction: The Role of Literature in Derrida’s Political Thought,” IV Congreso Colombiano de Filosofía, Universidad de Caldas. Manizales, September 24, 2012

“The philosophical Sources of Levinas’s conception of Election,” Invited Lecture, Universidad de los Andes, September 21, 2012

“On Monstrous Shoulders: Literature, Fraud and Faith in Derrida,” Symposium on Derrida and Religion, Fordham University, March 22, 2012

“Splinter in the Flesh: Levinas and the resignification of Jewish Suffering,” Continental European Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago, January 9, 2012

“Reading Passions,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 20, 2011

“The School of the Prophets,” Invited Lecture, University of Florida, Gainesville, November 9, 2011

“Levinas and Heidegger: an uneasy debt” Brown University Religion Department Colloquium, November 4, 2011

“ ‘If you’ll pardon the expression:’ Dissimulation and Being Jewish in postwar French Philosophy,” University of Chicago, Hypocrisy and Dissimulation in Judaism, Islam and Christianity,” Chicago Center for Jewish Studies Conference, University of Chicago, May 2011

“Poetics of the Broken Tablet,” Derrida and Religion Conference Harvard University, March 2010

“The stakes of reclaiming Paul,” Response to Simon Critchley. University of Chicago Divinity School, May 2010

“Jewish Universalism and the Exceptional State: The Jewish School of Paris and the Warrant for Israel” University of Chicago Divinity School, January 28, 2010

"Badiou, Levinas and Zionism," American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Montreal, November 2009

"Will the real 'jews' please stand up: Levinas's influence on Jean François Lyotard," Conference on the Jewish Question in France, UCLA, December 2008

"Blanchot Reading Levinas," Keynote Speaker, Continental Philosophy in a Jewish Context, *Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy*, October, 2008

"Through the strait gate of a second': The Impact of Jewish Messianism on Modern Philosophy from Marx to Derrida," Beth El Synagogue, Bennington VT, April 2008

"The Proximity of Judaism: Levinas, Blanchot and the Articulation of Identity," University of Chicago Divinity School, February 2008

"The Allure of the Sage: Levinas, Chouchani and Judaism's Mission in the politics of post-war Europe," Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, December 2007

"Yavneh or Masada: The founding Myths of Judaism," Green Mountain Lifelong Learning Academy, August, 2007

"*Nous sommes tous des Juifs Allemands*': Emmanuel Levinas and the Political Stakes of Identifying with the Jews," Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, December 2006

"Another, Other Abraham: Responsibility, Identity and the figure of the Jew in Derrida's 'Abraham, l'autre.'" Following Derrida: Legacies Conference University of Manitoba, October 2006

"Sartre's Jew: Stranger and Self," The University of Chicago Paris Center, November, 2005

"*La Question Juive*: Imagining the Jew in Modern France," Erasmus Institute, University of Notre Dame, November 2004

"Trope of the Jew: Out of the Sources of German Idealism," Erasmus Institute Summer Conference on Value in World Politics, June 2004

Selected Awards and Fellowships

American Council of Learned Society Fellowship, 2009-2010

American Philosophical Society Research Grant, 2009

Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture Research Grant, 2009-2010

Martin Marty Center Senior Fellow, University of Chicago Divinity School, 2009-2010

Class of 1945 World Fellowship, Williams College, 2009, 2010

University of Chicago Paris Center Graduate Fellowship, Paris, France, 2005

National Jewish Culture Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, 2005

Erasmus Institute Dissertation Fellowship, University of Notre Dame, 2004-2005

Martin Marty Center Dissertation Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2003-2004

DAAD Goethe Institute Scholarship, 2003
University of Chicago Divinity School Fellowship, 1999-2001, 2002-2003
Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship in Hebrew, 2001-2002
Karen Dinal Memorial Prize for Outstanding Teaching of Writing, 2001
Phi Beta Kappa, Wesleyan University, 1996

Teaching Experience

Williams College:

Post-Shoah Ethics, Spring 2013
Problem of Evil, Fall 2012
Religion and the Modern Literary Imagination, Spring 2008
Senior Seminar: Religion after Religion—Eliade, Scholem and Corbin, Spring 2008
Exile, Homecoming and the Promised Land, Fall 2007, Spring 2013
Endtimes: Messianism in Modernity, Fall 2006, Fall 2007
Introduction to Religion, Spring 2006, Fall 2006
Judaism: Innovation and Tradition, Spring 2006, 2007, Fall 2008, 2010, 2012
Self Revelations, Reading and Writing Autobiography, Winter 2007
Turn to Religion in Postmodernity, Spring 2007, Fall 2008
Kafka, Benjamin and Scholem: Between Mysticism and Nihilism, Spring 2007

The University of Chicago:

Religion: Cosmos, Conscience, and Community, Winter 2022
The Jewish Question in the 21st Century, Winter 2022.
Introduction to the Study of Religion: The Fetish, Fall 2020, 2021
Writing Religion, Spring 2020
Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion: On the Fetish, Spring 2020 Philosophizing
with a Hammer: Kofman, Nietzsche, Freud, Winter 2020
Introduction to Religion (in the college), Winter 2018, Fall, 2018
French Jewish Thought, Spring 2018
Gender and Sexuality in the Study of Religion, Winter 2018
Jerusalem Civilization, Modern, Spring 2017, Winter 2020, Winter 2021
Introduction to the Study of Religion, Fall 2015, 2016, 2020
Religion and Literature in France, Winter-Spring 2016
Derrida's *Of Grammatology*, Spring 2015
Twentieth Century Literary Theory, Spring 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2018, Fall 2020
The Jew, the Exotic and the Other, Winter 2015
Jewish Civilization II: Messianism in Modernity, Winter 2015
Levinas, Derrida and Religion and Literature, Fall 2013
Irony, Fall 2013
Post-Shoah Ethics, Spring 2012
Self-Defense and Self-Defeat in Literature and Philosophy, Spring 2012
Human Being and Citizen, Fall and Winter 2011
Religion in Postmodernity, Spring 2004

Dissertations Advised:

Ryan Bingham, "A Materialism Without Substance: Jacques Derrida and Questions of Responsibility at the Closure of Metaphysics," Proposed April 2022

Kirsten Collins, *Whiteness, Judaism, Race and Religion in Postwar France*, Proposed Winter 2021

Mendel Kranz, *A Genealogy of Jewish and Postcolonial Difference*, Proposed March 2020

Sam Catlin, *The Rest is Literature: Afterlives and Institutions of Midrash*, Proposed May 2019

Maureen Kelly, *Confessions, Confession: Rereading Augustine and Rousseau after Foucault*, "Expected Graduation, Spring 2021.

Bevin Blaber, "Under the Influence of Writing: Maurice Blanchot's Interwar Journalism and Early Literature" Expected Graduation, Summer 2020.

Hannah Roh, *Specters of Colonial Modernity, Christianity and Historical Imagination in Early Modern Korea*, Spring 2019.

Professional Societies

Advisory Board Cambridge Series on Religion and Critical Thought 2020-

American Academy of Religion (AAR), Member

AAR, Philosophy of Religions Steering Committee, 2008-2014

Association for Jewish Studies, Member

Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP), Member

Continental Philosophy in a Jewish Context Society, Member

Levinas Research Seminar, Member

Modern Language Association, Member

Languages: French, German, Hebrew