

Jake Sirota

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jakesirota.com

Education

Ph.D.	Divinity School, <i>University of Chicago</i>	ABD 2026
M.A.	Divinity School, <i>University of Chicago</i>	2022
B.A.	Philosophy, <i>Washington and Lee University</i> <i>Departmental Honors</i> , concentration in cultural anthropology	2019

Research Interests and Teaching Fields

Religion, literature, and literary theory • Race and religion • Religion, economic and financial history • Religion and colonialism • Psychoanalysis, religion, and politics • 18th Century • Modern religious thought • Philosophy of religion • Religion and political economy • Religion and critical theory • Religions in the Americas • Materiality, materialism, and material religion • History of the study of religion • Travelogues and travel narratives • Theories and methods in the study of religion • Theory of history and historiography

Publications

Book review: Storm, Jason Ānanda Josephson, *The Genealogy of Genealogy: Nietzsche, Foucault, and the Coils of Critical History*. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2026) for *Journal of Religion* (forthcoming)

Book review: An Yountae, *The Coloniality of the Secular: Race, Religion, and Poetics of World-Making*. (Durham: Duke University Press, 2024) for *Journal of Religion* (Volume 106, Number 2, April 2026).

“Misdiagnosing Jewish Loyalty.” *Sightings: A Publication of the Martin Marty Center for the Public Understanding of Religion*. November 17, 2022.

“*Geschlecht III*: Authentic Faith, Religion, and Politics in Derrida’s Reading of Heidegger’s *Geist*.” *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory*. 21.1, Winter 2022.

Conference Panels Organized

“Economic and Religious Futures,” at *American Academy of Religion*, Denver CO, November 2026. Presider, co-sponsored by the *Religion and Economy* and *Theology and Continental Philosophy* units.

Conference Papers and Presentations

“Crisis of Confidence: Providence, Literature, and the Financialization of Slavery,” at *American Academy of Religion*, Denver CO, November 2026

“Money and/as Signs of the Times: *Perutah* as Symbolic and Material Economy in Sanhedrin,” at *Workshop on Talmud and Contemporary Thought*. Paris FR, March 10, 2026.

“*Geschlecht III*: Understanding Faith in Derrida’s Reading of Heidegger’s Tainted Spirit,” at *Heidegger: Politics, History, Modernity*. Chicago IL, May 29, 2021.

“Secular Confessions? Reading Karl Ove Knausgaard’s *Summer* with Augustine and Buber,” at *Science, Society, and the Arts*. Lexington VA, March 21, 2019.

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant

“Deconstruction and Religion” (<i>University of Chicago</i>)	Autumn 2026
“The Wolf Seminar in Religion, Science, and Technology: Gaming the Gods” (<i>University of Chicago</i>)	Spring 2026
“Themes in the Academic Study of Religion” (<i>University of Chicago</i>)	Winter 2026
“Anthropology of Food and Cuisine” (<i>University of Chicago</i>)	Autumn 2022

Research Languages

English (native), French (reading competency), German (reading competency), Colloquial Tibetan (rudimentary spoken)

Awards, Grants, Fellowships, and Service

Anthony C. Yu Fellowship in Comparative Religions and Literature <i>University of Chicago</i>	2026-2027
Conference Presentation Grant <i>Joyce Z. and Jacob Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies</i>	2026
Research Travel Grant <i>France Chicago Center</i>	2026
Colman Pedagogy Fellow <i>Martin Marty Center for the Public Understanding of Religion</i>	2025-2026
Colman Research Grant <i>University of Chicago Divinity School</i>	2021, 2022, 2023
Co-Coordinator, Religion, Literature, and Visual Culture Workshop <i>University of Chicago</i>	2022, 2023
<i>Critical Inquiry</i> Visiting Professor Seminar with Catherine Malabou, Selected Participant <i>Critical Inquiry and Department of English, University of Chicago</i>	2022
James Fulton Maclear Scholar <i>Divinity School, University of Chicago</i>	2020-2022
Divinity School Dean’s Scholar <i>Divinity School, University of Chicago</i>	2020-2022

The Young Prize for Best Work in Philosophy <i>Department of Philosophy, Washington and Lee University</i>	2019
Departmental Honors in Philosophy <i>Department of Philosophy, Washington and Lee University</i>	2019
Head Undergraduate Fellow <i>Roger Mudd Center for Ethics, Washington and Lee University</i>	2018-2019
Leyburn Research Grant <i>Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Washington and Lee University</i>	2017, 2018
Touchton Scholar Grant <i>Washington and Lee University</i>	2017, 2018, 2019

Research Positions

Research Assistant, Prof. Sarah Hammerschlag <i>Divinity School, University of Chicago</i>	September 2021-Spring 2024
Research Lead Foodways History and Culinary Anthropology Research Associate <i>Appetite Lab, Nouri Singapore</i>	July 2022-August 2023 June 2021-July 2022

Editorial Experience

<i>Shenandoah Literary Magazine</i> Special Features Editor	March 2020-October 2020
<i>Shenandoah Literary Magazine</i> Editorial Intern	June 2019-March 2020
<i>Mudd Journal of Ethics</i> Editor	Winter 2018-May 2019
<i>The Stone</i> Photo Editor	Fall 2016-May 2019
<i>WLUR Radio</i> Music Reviewer, DJ	Spring 2016-May 2019

Employment

Grounds of Being Coffee Shop, Operating Manager	September 2021-August 2024
The Restaurant at the Durham Hotel, Cook <i>Garde Mange</i>	June 2019-September 2019

Professional Societies

American Academy of Religion (AAR), Member