Located in the heart of campus, the Divinity School is the graduate professional school for the academic study of religion at the University of Chicago, founded in 1891. The dominant ethos of the school — toward the cultivation of new knowledge through research — imbues both the Ph.D. and masters programs (M.A., M.Div., A.M.R.S.), which are taught by the same faculty. Many Divinity School faculty hold appointments in other departments or schools of the University, and we have a large cohort of associated faculty whose primary appointments range from the Medical and Law Schools to History, Classics and Anthropology. Divinity School students in turn take coursework throughout the University and encounter students from a range of departments in the over 100 courses offered by the Divinity School each year in the academic study of religion, across eleven areas of study: Anthropology and Sociology of Religion, Bible, History of Christianity, History of Judaism, History of Religions, Islamic Studies, Philosophy of Religions, Religion and Literature, Religions in America, Religious Ethics, and Theology.

http://divinity.uchicago.edu/faculty

Table of Contents

2 Faculty by Areas of Study
4 Faculty Books 2012
45 Recent Faculty Awards and Honors

6 Hussein Ali Agrama
6 Daniel A. Arnold
7 Robert Bird
7 Philip V. Bohlman
8 Catherine A. Brekus
9 Rachel Fulton Brown
9 Daniel Brudney
10 Melvin L. Butler
11 Simeon Chavel
11 Steven Collins
12 Paul Copp
13 Ryan Coyne
13 Kristine A. Culp
14 Arnold I. Davidson
15 Wendy Doniger
16 Fred M. Donner
16 Alireza Doostdar
17 Issam Eido
17 Ahmed El Shamsy
18 Jas’ Elsner
19 Curtis J. Evans
19 Christopher Faraone
20 Michael Fishbane
20 Franklin I. Gamwell
21 Sarah Hammerschlag
21 Kevin Hector
22 Dwight N. Hopkins
23 Annette Bourland Huizenga
24 Matthew Kapstein

25 James Ketelaar
25 Hans-Josef Klauck
25 Dan Laor
26 Franklin Lewis
26 Bruce Lincoln
27 Cynthia Gano Lindner
28 Jean-Luc Marion
29 David Martinez
29 Omar M. McRoberts
30 Françoise Meltzer
30 Paul Mendes-Flohr
31 Stephen C. Meredith
31 Margaret M. Mitchell
32 Martha C. Nussbaum
33 Willemien Otten
34 Lucy K. Pick
34 Tahera Qutbuddin
35 James T. Robinson
36 Richard A. Rosengarten
36 J. David Scholem
37 Susan Schreiner
38 William Schweiker
38 Michael Sells
39 Jonathan Z. Smith
39 Jeffrey Stackert
40 Josef Stern
40 Richard Strier
41 Daniel P. Sulmasy
42 Wesley Sun
42 Christian K. Wedemeyer
43 Christopher J. Wild
44 Brook A. Ziporyn
Faculty by Areas of Study

The Divinity School is organized into three committees of the faculty and eleven areas of study that support the School’s degree programs. Descriptions of the committees of the faculty and areas of study, including faculty resources, general guidelines, area Ph.D. written examinations, and sample course offerings can be found on our website.

Anthropology and Sociology of Religion
Ali Reza Doostdar
Omar M. McRoberts

Islamic Studies
Hussein Ali Agrama
Fred M. Donner
Ali Reza Doostdar
Ahmed El Shamsy
Franklin Lewis
Tahera Outtuddin
James T. Robinson
Michael Sells

History of Christianity
Catherine A. Brekus
Rachel Fulton Brown
Curtis J. Evans
Margaret M. Mitchell
Willemien Otten
Lucy K. Pick
Susan Schreiner

History of Judaism
Arnold I. Davidson
Michael Fishbane
Paul Mendes-Flohr
James T. Robinson

History of Religions
Steven Collins
Paul Copp
Wendy Doniger
Christopher Faraone
Matthew Kapstein
James Ketelaar
Bruce Lincoln
James T. Robinson
Jonathan Z. Smith
Christian K. Wedemeyer

Philosophy of Religions
Daniel A. Arnold
Daniel Brudney
Ryan Coyne
Arnold I. Davidson
Franklin I. Gamwell
Kevin Hector
Matthew Kapstein
Jean-Luc Marion
François Meltzer
Jared Smeets
Brook A. Ziporyn

Religion and Literature
Robert Bird
Philip V. Bohlman
jas’ Elsner
Sarah Hammerschlag
Richard A. Rosengarten
Richard Strier
Christopher J. Wild

Religious Ethics
Franklin I. Gamwell
Stephen C. Meredith
Martha C. Nussbaum
William Schweiker
Daniel P. Sulmasy

Theology
Ryan Coyne
Kristine A. Culp
Franklin I. Gamwell
Kevin Hector
Dwight N. Hopkins
Jean-Luc Marion
Paul Mendes-Flohr
Willemien Otten
Susan Schreiner
William Schweiker

Ministry Faculty
Cynthia Gano Lindner
Wesley Sun

Visiting Faculty
Issam Eido
Annette Bourland
Huizenga
Dan Laor

Ph.D. written examinations, and sample course offerings can be found on our website.
Faculty Books

Dan Arnold

Brains, Buddhists, and Believing: The Problem of Intentionality in Classical Buddhist and Cognitive-Scientific Philosophy of Mind
Columbia University Press

By characterizing the philosophical problems commonly faced by Dharmakīrti and contemporary philosophers, Arnold seeks to advance an understanding of both first-millennium Indian arguments and contemporary debates on the philosophy of mind.

Hans Dieter Betz, Don S. Browning, Bernd Janowski and Eberhard Jüngel, eds.

Leiden: Brill

A complete, updated English translation of the 4th edition of the definitive encyclopedia of religion worldwide, the German Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart. This year saw the publication of the 12th and 13th volumes in English. The final volume (Index) is forthcoming.

Hans Dieter Betz

“Jesus” Baptism and the Origins of the Christian Ritual,” in Ablution, Initiation, and Baptism: Late Antiquity, Early Judaism, and Early Christianity.
David Hellholm et al., eds.
Berlin & Boston: De Gruyter, 2011

This volume is the result of an international collaboration of researchers who met for two conferences to discuss the significance of rites of ablation, initiation, and baptism, and their interpretation in Late Antiquity, Early Judaism, and Early Christianity. Hans Dieter Betz’s chapter investigates the narrative tradition of Christian baptism found in the Gospels.

Dwight N. Hopkins and Edward P. Antonio, eds.

The Cambridge Companion to Black Theology
Cambridge University Press

This volume discusses normative theological categories from a black perspective and argues that there is no major Christian doctrine on which black theology has not commented.

Bruce Lincoln and Christopher Faroone, Guest Editors

Imagined Beginnings: The Poetics and Politics of Cosmogonic Discourse in the Ancient World (special issue, Archiv für Religionsgeschichte 13)
Princeton University Press

Based on a conference held at the University of Chicago, this issue focuses on how poets, prophets, priests, and magicians made creation stories and why ancient cultures found them so attractive and useful.

Bruce Lincoln and Claude Calame

Comparer en histoire des religions antiques
Liège: Presses Universitaires de Liège

Through examining examples of phenomena that we place under the banner of religion, these contributions aim to rehabilitate a comparative approach that is both rigorous and critical in order to rebuild a productive comparative analysis.

Jean-Luc Marion

Figures de phénoménologie: Husserl, Heidegger, Levinas, Henry, Derrida
Paris: J. Vrin

The studies that make up this book relate to the great figures of phenomenology whose reading has fueled the work of Jean-Luc Marion and concludes with a discussion between Marion and Jacques Derrida which took place in 1997.

La rigueur des choses. Entretiens avec Dan Arbib
Paris: Flammarion

This work evokes the milestones and main issues of Marion’s philosophy, and returns him to some of the great figures in his life. He also offers a new and original light on the state of the Church and Jewish-Christian dialogue.

In the Self’s Place: The Approach of Saint Augustine, trans. by J. L. Kosky
Stanford University Press

This work presents an original phenomenological reading of Augustine that considers his engagement with notions of identity in Confessions and establishes striking connections between accounts of selfhood across the fields of contemporary philosophy, literary studies, and Augustine’s early Christianity.

Being Given. Toward a Phenomenology of Givens, trans. J. L. Kosky, Second edition, revised and enlarged
Stanford University Press

A classic work of phenomenology in the twentieth century.

God without Being: Hors Texte, translated and enlarged
Paris: Flammarion

La rigueur des choses. Entretiens avec Dan Arbib
Paris: Flammarion

This work evokes the milestones and main issues of Marion’s philosophy, and returns him to some of the great figures in his life. He also offers a new and original light on the state of the Church and Jewish-Christian dialogue.

Françoise Meltzer

“Introduction” to Signature Derrida
University of Chicago Press

With an introduction by Françoise Meltzer that provides an overview of the oeuvre of this singular philosopher, Signature Derrida is the most wide-ranging, and thus most representative, anthology of Derrida’s work to date.

James T. Robinson

Asceticism, Eschatology, Opposition to Philosophy: The Arabic Translation and Commentary of Salmon ben Yeroham on Qohelet (Ecclesiastes) Karaite Texts and Studies, volume 5
Brill

Salmon b. Yeroham (fl. 930–960) —foundational figure in the Jewish school of Karaite exegesis —produced a substantial and influential corpus of polemical writing and biblical interpretation. This volume presents a first critical edition of the Judaeo-Arabic Qohelet commentary together with an annotated English translation.

Daniel P. Sulmasy

Privacy and Progress in Whole Genome Sequencing, Privacy and Progress in Whole Genome Sequencing, Privacy and Progress in Whole Genome Sequencing, Privacy and Progress in Whole Genome Sequencing
New York: Herder-Crossroad

This volume is the fifth of McGinn’s ongoing history of mysticism under the general title of The Presence of God, A History of Western Christian Mysticism. The compilation incorporates more than a century of new research from around the globe, demonstrating how this period gave rise to many mystical writers who remain influential even today.

Christian K. Wedemeyer

Making Sense of Tantric Buddhism: History, Semiology, and Transgression in the Indian Traditions
Columbia University Press

This book fundamentally rethinks the nature of the transgressive theories and practices of the Buddhist Tantric traditions, challenging the notion that the Tantras were “marginal” or primitive and situating them within larger trends in mainstream Buddhist and Indian culture.

Anthony C. Yu, trans. and ed.

The Journey to the West, revised edition, 4 vols
University of Chicago Press

The Journey to the West has always been a complicated and difficult text to render in English while preserving the lyricism of its language and the content of its plot. In this new edition Yu has made his translations even more accurate and accessible. The explanatory notes are updated and augmented, and new material has been added to his introduction.

Buddhist and Indian culture.

Larger trends in mainstream Buddhist and Indian culture.

Making Sense of Tantric Buddhism: History, Semiology, and Transgression in the Indian Traditions
Columbia University Press

This book fundamentally rethinks the nature of the transgressive theories and practices of the Buddhist Tantric traditions, challenging the notion that the Tantras were “marginal” or primitive and situating them within larger trends in mainstream Buddhist and Indian culture.

Edward P. Antonio, eds.

Signature Derrida
Paris: Flammarion

La rigueur des choses. Entretiens avec Dan Arbib
Paris: Flammarion

This work evokes the milestones and main issues of Marion’s philosophy, and returns him to some of the great figures in his life. He also offers a new and original light on the state of the Church and Jewish-Christian dialogue.
Hussein Ali Agrama

Associate Professor of Anthropology and the College; Associate Faculty

Ph.D. (Johns Hopkins University)

Hussein Ali Agrama has ongoing research interests in the anthropology of law, religion and Islam in the Middle East and in Europe, as well as in secularism, law and colonial power, and the genealogies of sovereignty and emergency states. His book, entitled Questioning Secularism: Islam at Law in Modern Egypt, details how modern litigation in the courts of Cairo shapes Islamic concepts and practices in ways that both express liberal legal sensibilities and yet undermine the legal system’s professed secular ideals. It argues that such paradoxical instabilities are not aberrations from secularism, but in fact central to its very workings. He was named a Carnegie Scholars Program Fellow for 2008 – 2010.

Daniel A. Arnold

Associate Professor of the Philosophy of Religions

M.A. (Columbia University)
M.A. (Iliff School of Theology)
Ph.D. (University of Chicago)

Dan Arnold is a scholar of Indian Buddhist philosophy, which he engages in a constructive and comparative way. Considering Indian Buddhist philosophy as integral to the broader tradition of Indian philosophy, he has particularly focused on topics at issue among Buddhist schools of thought (chiefly, those centering on the works of Nāgārjuna and of Dharmakīrti), often considering these in conversation with critics from the orthodox Brahmanical school of Pūrva Mīmāṃsā. His first book—Buddhists, Brahmins, and Belief: Epistemology in South Asian Philosophy of Religion (Columbia University Press, 2005)—won an American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion. His second book—Brains, Buddhas, and Believing: The Problem of Intentionality in Classical Buddhist and Cognitive-Scientific Philosophy of Mind (Columbia University Press, 2012)—centers on the contemporary philosophical category of intentionality, taken as useful in thinking through central issues in classical Buddhist epistemology and philosophy of mind. He is presently working on an anthology of Madhyamaka texts in translation, to appear in the series “Historical Sourcebooks in Classical Indian Thought.” His essays have appeared in such journals as Philosophy East and West, the Journal of Indian Philosophy, Asian Philosophy, the Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, and Revue Internationale de Philosophie.

Robert Bird

Associate Professor in the Departments of Slavic Languages and Literatures and Cinema and Media Studies and the College; Associate Faculty

Ph.D. (Yale University)


Philip V. Bohlman

Mary Werkman Distinguished Service Professor of the Humanities and of Music and the College; Chicago Center for Jewish Studies; Member of the Center for East European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies; Center for Middle Eastern Studies; Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture; Committee on Southern Asian Studies; Associate Faculty, Department of Germanic Studies; Associate Faculty

B.M. (University of Wisconsin–Madison)
M.M., Ph.D. (University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign)

Philip V. Bohlman is an ethnomusicologist with broadly conceived teaching and research interests. Music and religion form central subjects, ranging from Jewish music in the modern era to the interpretation of music in worship in North American religious communities to fieldwork in the Muslim communities of Europe and the multi-religious communities of India. His writings address issues at the intersections of music with race, nationalism, and colonial encounter; the ontological and ethical dimensions of music; and the social agency of aesthetics and performance. Among his many publications are The Land Where Two Streams Flow (1989); The Folk Songs of Ashkenaz (with Otto Holzapfel, 2001); Jüdische Musik: Eine mitteleuropäische Geistesgeschichte (2005); Music in American Religious Experience (coedited with Edith Blumhofer and Maria Chow, 2006); Jewish Music and Modernity (2008); Focus: Music, Nationalism, and the Making of the New Europe (2011); The Cambridge History of World Music (2013); and Revival and Reconciliation: Sacred Music in the Making of European Modernity (2013). Current research includes the five-volume *“Oxford Musics of the
Rachel Fulton Brown
Associate Professor of Medieval History in the Department of History and the College; Associate Faculty
Ph.D. (Columbia University)

Rachel Fulton Brown’s research and teaching focus on the intellectual and cultural history of Europe in the Middle Ages, with emphasis on the history of Christianity and monasticism in the Latin West. She also offers courses on warfare and travel in the Middle Ages and on the works of J.R.R. Tolkien. Her first book, From Judgment to Passion: Devotion to Christ and the Virgin Mary, 800–1200, is a study of the intellectual and emotional origins of the European devotion to Christ in his suffering humanity, with special emphasis on the role of scriptural exegesis and liturgy. It was awarded the Journal of the History of Ideas Morris D. Forkosch Prize for the best book in intellectual history published in 2002 and the John Nicholas Brown Prize from the Medieval Academy in 2006; it was also a Choice Magazine Outstanding Academic Title of the Year. Her current work addresses the interplay between intellect and empathy in the practical development of a discipline of prayer. She is the recipient of a 2008 Guggenheim fellowship, which she is using to pursue a project on the Virgin Mary and prayer.

Daniel Brudney
Professor in the Department of Philosophy and the College; Associate Faculty, MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics; Associate Faculty
Ph.D. (Harvard University)

Melvin L. Butler

Assistant Professor of Music; Associate Faculty
Ph.D. (New York University)

Professor Butler is an ethnomusicologist with broad interests in music and religion of the African diaspora. The bulk of his fieldwork has explored popular music making in relation to charismatic Christianity in Haitian and Jamaican communities. In these transnational Caribbean contexts, he interrogates the cultural politics of musical style and religious expression while attending to the role of musical performance in constructing individual and collective identities. Much of his research centers on the phenomenology of Pentecostal musical worship, how the transcendent becomes immanent through musical performance, and the intersections of faith, ritual, gender, and power. These interests fuel his ongoing concern with ethnographic representation and the ways in which scholars negotiate their identities in relation to various fields of supernatural encounter. He is presently at work on two book manuscripts: one examining the theological and experiential connections between Jamaican and African American gospel performance, along with the musical migrations that shape identities in Jamaica and its diaspora; the other focusing on a continuum of Pentecostal practice in Haiti and the discourses of cultural authenticity and spiritual power that inflect congregational practice. At the heart of both projects lies a critical reconsideration of how spiritually charged music making is deeply embedded in processes of boundary crossing, identity formation, and social positioning in post-colonial contexts.

Simeon Chavel

Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible
Ph.D. (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Most of the time, Professor Chavel is drawn to the religious imagination of ancient Israel, keen to revivify its ideas, modes of expression, history, and relationship to social structures. Often, he finds himself pulled to literary questions of genre, rhetoric and poetics in the Hebrew Bible. Sometimes, he ventures off into the relationship between history and forms of historiography. In all cases, he tends to keep one eye trained broadly on ancient Near Eastern culture and another trained more acutely on composition history (a.k.a. “source criticism”), manuscript history (“textual criticism”) and interpretation (especially rabbinic). One example of his interdisciplinary style is his article, “The Face of God and the Etiquette of Eye-Contact: Visitation, Pilgrimage, and Prophetic Vision in Ancient Israelite and Early Jewish Imagination,” published in Jewish Studies Quarterly 19 (2012). Currently, he is completing his first book, Oracular Law and Narrative History: The Priestly Literature of the Pentateuch (to be published by Mohr Siebeck), on a type of short story about law and legislation—the “oracular novella”—and its significance for priestly literature in particular and biblical historiography in general. A concentrated version of it appeared with the title “Oracular Novellae” and Biblical Historiography—Through the Lens of Law and Narrative,” in Clio 39 (2009).

On campus, Professor Chavel enjoys bringing scholarship on the Hebrew Bible into fruitful contact with other areas of research and enriching student exposure to the field and the figures active in it. He has presented at some conferences and lecture series held at the University and arranged others.

Steven Collins

Chester D. Tripp Professor in the Humanities, Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations and the College; Associate Faculty
D.Phil. (Oxford University)

Steven Collins works on the texts and civilizational history of Buddhism in premodern and modern South and Southeast Asia. His books include Selfless Persons: Imagery and Thought in Theravada Buddhism; Nirvana and Other Buddhist Felicities: Utopias of the Pali Imaginaire; A Pali Grammar for Students; Nirvana: Concept, Imagery, Narrative Civilization et femmes célibataires dans le bouddhisme en Asie du Sud et du Sud-est: Une étude de genre; and Self and Society: Essays on Pali Literature 1988–2010. His current research interests include the translation of Pali texts and Buddhist practices of the Self.
Ryan Coyne
Assistant Professor of the Philosophy of Religions and Theology
M.A., Ph.D. (University of Chicago)
Ryan Coyne studies the relationship between modern European philosophy and the history of Christian theology. His research thus far has focused on the ways in which eighteenth-, nineteenth- and twentieth-century German and French thinkers distance themselves from the Christian tradition while nevertheless making use of its resources. This leads him to examine modern fields of inquiry—including hermeneutics, phenomenology, psychoanalysis and deconstruction—by situating them alongside ancient, medieval and early modern sources. His first book, *Heidegger’s Confessions*, considers the figure of Augustine of Hippo in the works of the German philosopher Martin Heidegger. It traces the counterintuitive ways in which the early Heidegger enlists Augustine’s formulations to rid modern philosophy of theology, and it argues that Heidegger crucially revises these formulations in his later works. Coyne is currently working on a second project tentatively entitled *The Dreams of Metaphysicians*. This book examines the exegetical and rhetorical strategies that recent continental philosophers employ as readers of religious texts. In general, his teaching and writing focus on the themes of subjectivity, temporality, and religious experience. They take up these themes in conversation with figures such as Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche, Heidegger and Derrida. His longstanding interests include the history of Christian mysticism, as well as religion and psychoanalysis.

Kristine A. Culp
Associate Professor of Theology and Dean of the Disciples Divinity House; also in the College
M.Div. (Princeton Theological Seminary)
Ph.D. (University of Chicago)
Kris Culp works in constructive theology. She is the author of *Vulnerability and Glory: A Theological Account* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2010) and the editor of *The Responsibility of the Church for Society and Other Essays* by H. Richard Niebuhr (Westminster John Knox, 2008). She studies protest and transformation as religious sensibilities and projects, partly as enacted in political and cultural movements, and particularly as thematized in contemporary feminist and African-American theologies and, historically, in Protestant theologies. She is also interested in theological writing, and, specifically, how reflexivity and critical distance are incorporated into multiple genres of theological writing. She has written on protest and resistance as theological themes, the use of fiction in theological thinking, a theology of Christian community, feminist and womanist theologies, and “experience” in contemporary theology.

Paul Copp
Associate Professor in Chinese Religion and Thought, East Asian Languages and Civilizations, and the College; Director of Graduate Studies, East Asian Languages and Civilizations; Associate Faculty
Ph.D. (Princeton University)
Paul Copp’s research focuses on the history of religious practice in China during the eighth through the twelfth centuries. In particular, he has a strong interest in exploring surviving material sources (manuscripts, amulets, archaeological sites, etc) for the practices of Chinese Buddhism in this period. His graduate seminars focus on the philological close reading of texts in their historical (and often material) contexts, on methods for the use of manuscripts and archaeological remains in the study of pre-modern religious practice, as well as on critical engagement with the fields of Sinology and the history of religions.

Copp’s first book, *The Body Incantatory: Spells and the Ritual Imagination in Medieval Chinese Buddhism* (in press, Columbia), is a study of the nature and history of Buddhist incantatory and amuletic practices in Tang China centered in archaeological evidence. At present, his main project is a paleographical and material-historical study of the worlds of anonymous ninth and tenth century Chinese Buddhists whose practices, ritual and scribal, are evidenced by manuscript handbooks and liturgies discovered among the cache of materials from Dunhuang, a key city on the eastern end of the “Silk Roads.” Its working title is “Seal, Talisman, and Scroll: Vernacular Buddhism and Manuscript Culture at Dunhuang.”
Arnold I. Davidson

Robert O. Anderson Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Philosophy, the Divinity School (Philosophy of Religions and History of Judaism), the Department of Comparative Literature, the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, and the Committee on the Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science

Director, France-Chicago Center; Officier dans l’Ordre des Palmes Académiques

M.A. (Georgetown University)
Ph.D. (Harvard University)

Arnold I. Davidson is interested in the historical and systematic relationships between philosophy and theology. He has written about, and taught courses on, twentieth-century European philosophy and theology, as well as on the history of philosophy and theology: ancient, medieval, and modern. He is especially interested in the tradition of spiritual exercises and the related ideas of philosophy and religion as a way of life and moral perfectionism.

His interests in the history of Judaism are primarily in modern and contemporary Jewish thought, including the relation between Judaism and philosophy in contemporary French thought, the role of practice in Jewish philosophy and the status of moral, political and religious concepts after the Shoah. He has also worked on problems concerning the relations and tensions between theological and cultural conceptions of Jewish identity, and is currently engaged in a study of thinkers who have attempted to combine traditional Jewish learning with modern philosophical ideas.

He has been a visiting professor at many French institutions (including the Collège de France, the École Normale Supérieure, the University of Paris I and the University of Paris VII) and has also been Professor of the History of Political Philosophy at the University of Pisa. Beginning in 2013, each spring he will be Visiting Professor of the Philosophy of Cultures in the Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage at the University Ca’Foscari of Venice. He is also European editor of the journal Critical Inquiry.

He is the author of The Emergence of Sexuality: Historical Epistemology and the Formation of Concepts. He has edited and written an introduction to Pierre Hadot’s Philosophy as a Way of Life: Spiritual Exercises from Socrates to Foucault (of which he is also editor of the French edition), and has co-authored a book of conversations with Pierre Hadot, La philosophie comme manière de vivre. He is the coeditor of the standard French anthology of Michel Foucault’s writings, Michel Foucault. Philosophie, and is the English-language editor of the thirteen volumes of Michel Foucault’s courses at the Collège de France. He has published articles in Italian on, among other topics, the tradition of spiritual exercises and St. Francis of Assisi. He has also edited the volume La vacanza morale del fascismo. Intorno a Primo Levi as well as a Spanish edition of Primo Levi’s essays Vivir para contar. Escribir tras Auschwitz. His main publications are in French and Italian as well as in English.

Wendy Doniger

Mircea Eliade Distinguished Service Professor of the History of Religions; also in the Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations, the Committee on Social Thought, and the College

M.A., Ph.D. (Harvard University)
D.Phil. (Oxford University)

Wendy Doniger’s research and teaching interests revolve around two basic areas, Hinduism and mythology. Her courses in mythology address themes in cross-cultural expanses, such as death, dreams, evil, horses, sex, and women; her courses in Hinduism cover a broad spectrum that, in addition to mythology, considers literature, law, gender, and zoology.

Among over thirty books published under the names of Wendy Doniger O’Flaherty and Wendy Doniger are seventeen interpretive works, including Siva: The Erotic Ascetic; The Origins of Evil in Hindu Mythology; Women, Androgynes, and Other Mythical Beasts; Dreams, Illusion, and Other Realities; Tales of Sex and Violence: Folklore, Sacrifice, and Danger in the Jaiminiya Brahmana; Other Peoples’ Myths: The Cave of Echoes; Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Ancient Greece and India; The Bedtrick: Tales of Sex and Masquerade; The Implied Spider: Politics and Theology in Myth; The Woman Who Pretended To Be Who She Was; The Hindus: An Alternative History; and On Hinduism. Among her nine translations are three Penguin Classics—Hindu Myths: A Sourcebook, Translated from the Sanskrit; The Rig Veda: An Anthology, 108 Hymns Translated from the Sanskrit; and The Laws of Manu (with Brian K. Smith)—and a new translation of the Kamasutra (with Sudhir Kakar). In progress are Hinduism, for the Norton Anthology of World Religions (2014); Faking It: Narratives of Circular Jewelry and Clever Women; Skepticism in the Shastras, or: The Manipulation of Religion for Politics and Pleasure in Ancient India (the 2014 Terry Lectures at Yale); and a novel, Horses for Lovers, Dogs for Husbands.
Fred M. Donner

Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, the Oriental Institute, and the College; Director, Center for Middle Eastern Studies; Associate Faculty

Ph.D. (Princeton University)

Fred Donner’s early interest in the role of pastoral nomadic groups in Near Eastern societies led to his dissertation on the role of Arabian pastoral nomadic groups in the early Islamic conquest movement in Iraq in the seventh century C.E. His first book, The Early Islamic Conquests (Princeton University Press, 1981), examined this question in more detail, particularly the relationship between pastoral nomads and the state, as well as the more general processes of state formation and state expansion. Close work with the sources for this early period of Islamic history, and the profound questions about the reliability of these sources raised by revisionist scholarship that has appeared since 1977, led Donner to a long-term examination of those sources, culminating in his Narratives of Islamic Origins: The Beginnings of Islamic Historical Writing (Darwin Press, 1998). Donner then shifted his focus to the intellectual or ideological factors that were at play in the early expansion of Islam, particularly the significance of militant piety, possibly rooted in an apocalyptic outlook. This line of work culminated in his book Muhammed and the Believers: At the Origins of Islam (Harvard, 2010). In recent years, Donner has begun to study Arabic papyri, as the largest group of documents contemporary with the earliest Islamic community. He was President of Middle East Medievalists from 1992–1994, and is currently (2013) Past-President of the Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA). His teaching focuses on early Islamic history, Islamic social history, and aspects of Islamic law.

Issam Eido

Visiting Instructor of Islamic Studies and Arabic

Ph.D. (Damascus University)

Dr. Issam Eido will be Visiting Instructor of Islamic Studies and Arabic in the Divinity School during the 2013–2014 academic year. Dr. Eido’s research focuses on the Qur’ an in late antiquity, Hadith Studies, and Sufi and Arabic literary and poetic studies. A 2010 Ph.D. graduate of Damascus University, he also served that institution from 2010–2012 as Lecturer in the Department Department of Quranic Studies and History of Islamic Sciences. In 2012 he was a Fellow of the “Europe in the Middle East/Middle East in Europe” Research program at the Forum Transregionale Studien in Berlin. A skilled teacher of Arabic, Dr. Eido will teach courses in Qur’anic Arabic while at the University of Chicago.

Ahmed El Shamsy

Assistant Professor of Islamic Thought, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations; Associate Faculty

Ph.D. (Harvard University)

Ahmed El Shamsy studies the intellectual history of Islam, focusing on Islamic law and theology, cultures of orality and literacy, and classical Islamic education. He is particularly interested in the changing ways that religious authority has been constructed and interpreted in the Muslim tradition. His first book, The Canonization of Islamic Law: A Social and Intellectual History, was published by Cambridge University Press in July. He is now at work on his second book, a study of the reinvention of the Islamic scholarly tradition and its textual canon via the printing press in the early twentieth century. Other ongoing research projects investigate the influence of the Greek sage Galen on Islamic thought and the construction of self-identity among early Muslims. He teaches courses on all aspects of Islamic thought and the classical Islamic disciplines.

Alireza Doostdar

Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies and the Anthropology of Religion

Ph.D. (Harvard University)

Alireza Doostdar teaches courses on the anthropology of religion, contemporary Shi‘ism, and modern Iranian religious history. His first book project, tentatively titled “Taming Wonder: Science, Doubt, and the Supernatural in Iran” explores the ways in which both secular and Islamist modernists have harnessed wonder—as an emotional and cognitive state—in the service of popularizing and sustaining their visions of social and cultural change. His research has focused on discursive productions of superstition, scientific imaginations of the supernatural, and the productivity of ambivalence and doubt in middle class religious subjectivities. His other interests include Islamic “spiritual” cinema, hagiographies of contemporary Shi‘i mystics, online occultist networks, and philosophical debates over the Islamization of the sciences in Iran.
Curtis J. Evans

Assistant Professor of the History of Christianity and of Religions in America

M.A. (Gordon–Conwell Theological Seminary)
Ph.D. (Harvard University)

Curtis Evans is an historian of American religion. His teaching interests include modern American religion, race and religion in United States history, and slavery and Christianity. His first book, *The Burden of Black Religion* (Oxford University Press, 2008), was an historical analysis of debates about the role of religion in the lives of African Americans and the origins of the scholarly category of “the black church.” His research emphases are interpretations and cultural images of African American religion and historical examinations of religion as a force for and obstacle to social and political reform. Evans’ published essays have appeared in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Church History*, *Journal of Southern Religion*, and *Religion and American Culture*. His current research project is a critical historical study of the Federal Council of Churches’ Department of Race Relations from the 1920s through the 1940s, with a focus on the internal dynamics of the FCC’s emphasis on attitudinal change as a means of addressing racial prejudice and its broader structural critique of racial oppression in American society.

Christopher Faraone

Frank Curtis Springer and Gertrude Melcher Springer Professor in the Humanities and the College; also in the Department of Classics; Associate Faculty

Ph.D. (Stanford University)

Michael Fishbane

Nathan Cummings Distinguished Service Professor of Jewish Studies and the College
Ph.D. (Brandeis University)

Michael Fishbane was trained in Semitic languages, biblical studies, and Judaica. His writings span from the ancient Near East and biblical studies to rabbincics, the history of Jewish interpretation, Jewish mysticism, and modern Jewish thought. Among his many books are Text and Texture; Biblical Interpretation in Ancient Israel: Garments of Torah; The Kiss of God; and The Exegetical Imagination: On Jewish Thought and Theology. Both Biblical Interpretation in Ancient Israel and The Kiss of God won The National Jewish Book Award in scholarship. His commentary on the prophetic lectionary (Haftarot) in Judaism was published in 2002 (Jewish Publication Society Bible Commentary), and his book Biblical Myth and Rabbinic Mythmaking was published in 2003 (Oxford University Press). His latest work, Sacred Attunement: A Jewish Theology, was published in fall 2008 by the University of Chicago Press. He has completed a multileveled comprehensive commentary presenting the full range of Jewish interpretations on the Song of Songs. Fishbane is now working on the poetics of Jewish liturgical poetry. Professor Fishbane received a Guggenheim Fellowship, among other major grants, and has twice been a fellow of the Institute for Advanced Studies at Hebrew University. Professor Fishbane is a member of the American Academy of Jewish Research, and was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award in Textual Studies by the National Foundation of Jewish Culture. An entry on him and his work appears in the new edition of the Encyclopedia Judaica. Fishbane is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Franklin I. Gamwell

Shailer Mathews Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Religious Ethics, the Philosophy of Religions, and Theology
B.D. (Union Theological Seminary, New York)
M.A., Ph.D. (University of Chicago)

Franklin Gamwell studies ethical and political theory in relation to Christian theology and to the philosophy of religions. His work is centered particularly on twentieth-century thinkers. His books include The Divine Good: Modern Moral Theory and the Necessity of God; The Meaning of Religious Freedom: Modern Politics and the Democratic Resolution; Democracy on Purpose: Justice and the Reality of God; and Politics as a Christian Vocation: Faith and Democracy Today; and Existence and the Good: Metaphysical Necessity in Morals and Politics. His numerous articles and essays have appeared in the Journal of Law and Religion, the Journal of Religion, Process Studies, and Christian Century, among other places. He has also contributed chapters to a number of collections and anthologies, including Introduction to Religious Social Ethics and Religion and Practical Reason. Professor Gamwell is an ordained Presbyterian minister.

Sarah Hammerschlag

Assistant Professor of Religion and Literature
M.A., Ph.D. (University of Chicago)

Sarah Hammerschlag is a scholar in the area of Religion and Literature. Her research thus far has focused on the position of Judaism in the post-World War II French intellectual scene, a field that puts her at the crossroads of numerous disciplines and scholarly approaches including philosophy, literary studies, and intellectual history. She is the author of The Figural Jew: Politics and Identity in Postwar French Thought (University of Chicago Press, 2010). She has written essays on Jacques Derrida, Emmanuel Levinas and Maurice Blanchot, which have appeared in Critical Inquiry, Jewish Quarterly Review and Shofar, among other places. She is currently working on two manuscripts, one entitled Sowers and Sages: The Renaissance of Judaism in Postwar Paris, and another on Levinas, Derrida and Literature. She is also editing an anthology for Brandeis University Press on 20th-century French Jewish writing. The Figural Jew received Honorable Mention for the 2012 Jordan Schnitzer Book Award given by the Association of Jewish Scholars, and was a finalist for the Best First Book in the History of Religions in 2011.

Kevin Hector

Assistant Professor of Theology and of the Philosophy of Religions
M.A. (Wheaton College)
Ph.D. (Princeton Seminary)

Kevin Hector is a constructive Christian theologian whose work aims to carry on Chicago’s tradition of public theology by setting modern Protestant theology (particularly the trajectory that runs from Kant, Hegel, and Schleiermacher through Ritschl, Troeltsch, Barth, Tillich, Bultmann, Ebeling, Jüngel, etc.) in conversation with contemporary theology (especially contextual and liberation theologies), philosophy (including continental, analytic, as well as pragmatic philosophies), theory (especially critical social theories of various stripes), and science (especially neuroscience and
Dwight N. Hopkins

Professor of Theology and Director of M.A. Studies

M.Div., M.Phil., Ph.D. (Union Theological Seminary, New York)
Ph.D. (University of Cape Town, South Africa)

Dwight Hopkins is a constructive theologian working in the areas of contemporary models of theology, various forms of liberation theologies (especially black and other third-world manifestations), and East-West cross-cultural comparisons. Persuaded by the question “what does it mean to be human,” Professor Hopkins is interested in multidisciplinary approaches to the academic study of religious thought, especially cultural, political, economic, and interpretive methods. His latest works are *The Cambridge Companion to Black Theology; Being Human: Race, Culture, and Religion; Walk Together Children: Black and Womanist Theologies, Church and Theological Education; Another World Is Possible: Spiritualities and Religions of Global Darker Peoples; Loving the Body: Black Religious Studies and the Erotic* (coeditor); *Heart and Head: Black Theology—Past, Present, and Future*; *Introducing Black Theology of Liberation; Down, Up and Over: Slave Religion and Black Theology; and Black Faith and Public Talk: Essays in Honor of James Cone’s Black Theology and Black Power* (editor). His previous texts include

---

Hector’s first book, *Theology without Metaphysics* (Cambridge University Press, 2011), defends a novel approach to the problem of metaphysics by developing a philosophically-informed and critically-articulated theology of language. The argument, simply stated, is that one of the central premises of contemporary postmetaphysical theology—namely, that language is inherently ‘metaphysical,’ that it therefore shoe-horns objects into predetermined categories, and that it must accordingly be kept at a distance from God—assumes metaphysics’ own understanding of language. Drawing on recent work in theology and philosophy of language, Hector renders this assumption optional by developing an alternative account of language and its relation to God, thereby demonstrating that one need not choose between fitting God into a metaphysical framework, on the one hand, and keeping God at a distance from language, on the other.

Hector is currently working on a second book, tentatively entitled *Modernism as a Theological Problem*, in which he traces the development of modern-theological accounts of freedom—accounts, specifically, of the conditions of one’s standing in a relationship of ‘mineness’ to one’s doxastic, practical, and emotional commitments—as these responded to the challenges of naturalism and historicism. The constructive upshot of these developments is then elaborated further by considering recent work in neuroscience, evolutionary biology, and the philosophy of free will.

---

Annette Bourland Huizenga

Visiting Assistant Professor

M.R.E. (Wesley Theological Seminary)
M.A.T.S. (McCormick Theological Seminary)
Ph.D. (University of Chicago)


---

Black Theology USA and South Africa: Politics, Culture, and Liberation; Shoes That Fit Our Feet: Sources for a Constructive Black Theology; and We Are One Voice: Essays on Black Theology in South Africa and the USA (coeditor). He is an editor of *Religions/Globalizations: Theories and Cases; Changing Conversations: Religious Reflection and Cultural Analysis; and Liberation Theologies, Postmodernity and the Americas*. Professor Hopkins is senior editor of the *Henry McNeil Turner/Sojourner Truth Series in Black Religion* (Orbis Books). He is an ordained American Baptist minister.
Matthew Kapstein

Ph.D. (Brown University)

Matthew T. Kapstein specializes in the history of Buddhist philosophy in India and Tibet, as well as in the cultural history of Tibetan Buddhism more generally. He regularly teaches Contemporary Theories in the Study of Religion in the History of Religions program, and Introduction to the Philosophies of India in Philosophy of Religions. His seminars in recent years have focused on particular topics in the history of Buddhist thought, such as Buddha Nature, idealism, and epistemology (pramāṇa), or on broad themes in the study of religion including the problem of evil, death, and the imagination. Kapstein has published over a dozen books and numerous articles, among the most recent of which are a general introduction to Tibetan cultural history, The Tibetans (Oxford, 2006), an edited volume on Sino-Tibetan religious relations, Buddhism Between Tibet and China (Boston, 2009), and a translation of an eleventh-century philosophical allegory in the acclaimed Clay Sanskrit Series, The Rise of Wisdom Moon (New York 2009). With Kurtis Schaeffer (University of Virginia) and Gray Tuttle (Columbia), he has completed Sources of Tibetan Traditions, published in the Columbia University Press Sources of Asian Traditions series in 2013. Kapstein is additionally Director of Tibetan Studies at the École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris.

James Ketelaar

Professor in History and East Asian Languages and Civilizations; Associate Faculty

Ph.D. (The University of Chicago)

Professor Ketelaar is currently finishing a book on the importance of the barbarian and the frontier in the construction of Japanese national identity and national history, titled Ezo: A History of Japan’s Eastern Frontier (Princeton University Press). He is beginning a book project on the roles and meanings of emotion in Japanese historical imaginations which will look at issues ranging from the relationship of the creator gods Izanami and Izanagi to erotic images found in Shunga to the emotive powers of the deaths of Christian martyrs.

Professor Ketelaar is also a Board member and Chair of the Executive Committee for the Inter-University Center of Yokohama (a consortial program for the advanced study of Japanese language and culture). His publications include Of Heretics and Martyrs in Meiji Japan: Buddhism and its Persecution (Princeton: 1989), winner of the Hans Rosenhaupt Memorial Award.

Hans-Josef Klauck

Naomi Shenstone Donnelley Professor of New Testament and Early Christian Literature

Dipl. Theol. (University of Bonn)
Dr. Theol., Dr. Theol. Habil. (University of Munich)
Dr. h.c. (University of Zurich)


Dan Laor

Visiting Professor of Israel Studies

M.A. (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
Ph.D. (The University of California, Berkeley (Comparative Literature)

Dan Laor is Visiting Professor of Modern Hebrew Literature in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (NELC) and the Divinity School for the Winter and Spring quarters of 2014. Professor Laor, Professor of Hebrew Literature and the incoming Jacob and Shoshana Schreiber Chair for Contemporary Jewish Culture, Tel Aviv University, is a well-known scholar of the contemporary Israeli novel. He is the author of six books, and editor of another seven, on modern Israeli fiction, and in particular the works of S.Y. Agnon. Professor Laor’s Winter quarter course in NEKC ("Representations of the Holocaust in Hebrew/Israeli Literature") is as Patinkin Professor through the Chicago Center for Jewish Studies, and the Spring course ("The Works of S.Y. Agnon") is as Israel Studies Professor in the Divinity School in the area of Religion and Literature.
Franklin Lewis

Associate Professor of Persian, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations; Associate Faculty
Ph.D. (University of Chicago)

Franklin Lewis teaches courses on Persian literature and language, medieval Islamic thought, Islamic mysticism, Iranian cinema, translation history, and comparative literature, and is the current Director of Graduate Studies for the Medieval and Modern programs in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. He runs the email discussion list Adabiyat for students and scholars of Persian, Arabic, Turkish, and Urdu literatures, and serves as Deputy Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Chicago, as well as President of the American Institute of Iranian Studies. Lewis’ research interests center on Persian literature, particularly the Samanid to the Timurid period, as well as twentieth-century poetry and prose; comparative literature (performance, genre studies, semiotics, sociology of literary production, narratology, hermeneutics, homiletics, codicology and editorial theory focusing on Arabic and medieval European literatures); and mystical and esoteric traditions in the Islamicate world (including Sufi, Shi’i and Baha’i thought and theology). Publications include several translations of modern Persian prose and poetry, and articles on Hafez, Attar, Sadi, Najm al-Din Dâye, Persian literature and the Qur’an, the Sufi orders, the hagiographical tradition, the writings of Bahá’ Allâh. An ongoing interest in Mowlânâ Jalâl al-Din Rumi is reflected in a monograph on the subject, a book of literary translations of his poems, a guest-edited special journal issue focusing on the current state of Rumi studies, and an edition and translation of the discourses of Borhân al-Din Mohaqeq of Termez, the teacher who purportedly initiated Rumi in the mystic tradition.

Bruce Lincoln

Caroline E. Haskell Distinguished Service Professor of the History of Religions; also in the Center for Middle Eastern Studies and Committee on Medieval Studies; Associate Faculty in the Departments of Anthropology and Classics
Ph.D. (University of Chicago)

Bruce Lincoln emphasizes critical approaches to the study of religion. He is particularly interested in issues of discourse, practice, power, conflict, the violent reconstruction of social borders, and comparative demonology. His research tends to focus on the religions of pre-Christian Europe and pre-Islamic Iran, but he has a notoriously short attention span and has also written on a bewildering variety of topics, including Guatemalan curanderismo, Lakota sun dances, Melanesian funerary rituals, Swazi kingship, the Saint Bartholomew’s Day massacre, Marco Polo, professional wrestling, Persian imperialism, and the theology of George W. Bush. His most recent publications include Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars: Critical Explorations in the History of Religions (Chicago, 2012), “Happiness for Mankind”: Achaemenian Religion and the Imperial Project (Louvain, 2012), andComparer en histoire des religions antiques, coedited with Claude Calame (Liège, 2012).

Cynthia Gano Lindner

Director of Ministry Studies and Clinical Faculty for Preaching and Pastoral Care
D.Min. (University of Chicago)

Cynthia Lindner received her training in the Divinity School’s Doctor of Ministry program with emphases in biblical studies, ethics, and psychological studies. She has worked as a parish pastor, hospice chaplain, and pastoral psychotherapist for over twenty years. Teaching and research interests include questions of contemporary ministerial identity and formation, the ethics of preaching and pastoral care in a multicultural society, the interface of corporate worship and public witness in congregational life, the moral development of adolescents, and the religious and ethical dimensions of family policy. Rev. Lindner is also a pastoral psychotherapist at the Center for Religion and Psychotherapy, where she conducts clergy groups on narrativity and formation in addition to her work with individuals and couples. She conducts research on collaborative pedagogy in theological education, and is currently conducting interviews with clergy for a research project entitled “Accounting for Ourselves: Multiplicity in Ministry,” funded by the Louisville Institute.
Jean-Luc Marion

Andrew Thomas Greeley and Grace McNichols Greeley Professor of Catholic Studies and Professor of the Philosophy of Religions and Theology. Also at the University Paris–Sorbonne (Paris-IV), Department of Philosophy, and at the Ecole Normale Supérieure, “Archives Husserl,” Paris

Docteur en 1er cycle (Université Paris–Sorbonne, 1974)
Docteur d’État (Université Paris–Sorbonne, 1980)
Member (Académie française, elected 2008)
Member (Accademia dei Lincei, Rome, 2010)

Jean-Luc Marion studies both the history of modern philosophy and contemporary phenomenology. In the former field, he has published several books on Descartes’ ontology, rational theology, and metaphysics, focusing especially on medieval sources and using modern patterns of interpretation (e.g., On Descartes’ Metaphysical Prism, Cartesian Questions, and On the Ego and on God: Further Cartesian Questions). In the latter field, he is pursuing a long-term inquiry into the question of God, as in The Idol and Distance and God Without Being. Finally, he initiated a phenomenology of givenness in Reduction and Givenness, which was further developed in Being Given: An Essay on the Phenomenology of Givenness and In Excess: Studies on Saturated Phenomena, and in The Erotic Phenomenon. In a more theological style, he has recently published Au lieu de soi. L’approche de saint Augustin (first edition, 2008; second edition, 2009; English translation 2012). He is currently working on a last study devoted to deconstructing the myth of Cartesian dualism, Sur la pensée passive de Descartes.

Professor Marion has also worked in the areas of Greek and Latin patristics; the history of medieval and modern philosophy; aesthetics; and constructive theology. He is now working on the issue of Revelation.

Marion has been awarded the Grand Prix du Philosophie de l’Académie Française, the 2008 Karl-Jaspers Prize of the city and University of Heidelberg, Germany (2008), and the Humboldt-Stiftung Prize (2012). He was elected to l’Academie francaise in 2008 and received as an immortel (member) in 2010. In 2009 he was elected to the Academia dei Lincei (Rome). He will give the Gifford Lectures in coming years.

David Martinez

Associate Professor, Department of Classics and the Divinity School; and the College

M.Div. (Princeton Theological Seminary)
M.A., Ph.D. (University of Michigan)

David Martinez is a classicist and papyrologist whose research and teaching focus on Greek papyrology and paleography, Hellenistic authors, early Christian literature, and the Hellenistic background of the New Testament. He is the author of P. Michigan XVI: A Greek Love Charm from Egypt and Baptized for Our Sakes: A Leather Trisagion from Egypt. He has also written articles on documentary Greek papyri and ancient Greek religion and magic. His current projects include the publication of the Texas papyri and projects that relate papyrological research to the study of early Christianity. He founded a seminar at the Society of Biblical Literature entitled “Papyrology and Early Christian Backgrounds.”

Omar M. McRoberts

Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and the College; Associate Faculty

Ph.D. (Harvard University)

Omar McRoberts’s scholarly and teaching interests include the sociology of religion, urban sociology, urban poverty, race, and collective action. His first book, Streets of Glory: Church and Community in a Black Urban Neighborhood (University of Chicago Press, 2003) won the 2005 Distinguished Book Award from the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. It is based on an ethnographic study of religious life in Four Corners, a poor, predominantly black neighborhood in Boston containing twenty-nine congregations. It explains the high concentration, wide variety, and ambiguous social impact of religious activity in the neighborhood. Professor McRoberts currently is conducting a study of black religious responses to, and influences on, social welfare policy since the New Deal, culminating with George W. Bush’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. He is also initiating an ethnographic project on cultures of death and dying among black congregations in low-income urban contexts.
Françoise Meltzer
Professor of the Philosophy of Religions; also the Edward Carson Waller Distinguished Service Professor in the Humanities; Chair, Department of Comparative Literature and the College
M.A., Ph.D. (University of California, Berkeley)
Françoise Meltzer marshals postmodern critical theories in order to explore representations of the subject. Her first book, Salome and the Dance of Writing, deals with mimesis as evidenced in literary texts that describe painted portraits. In Hot Property: The Stakes and Claims of Literary Originality, she examines the ideas of originality and authorship in a series of case studies from Descartes to Walter Benjamin. Her book on Joan of Arc (For Fear of the Fire: Joan of Arc and the Limits of Subjectivity) undertakes a study of that figure in relation to gendered subjectivity as it is treated in philosophical and literary theoretical discourses. At the Divinity School, she delivered the 1996 John Nuveen Lecture, “The Hands of Simone Weil.” She edited (with David Tracy) a “Symposium on ‘God’” for the journal Critical Inquiry, and (with Jas’ Elsner) a book entitled Saints: Faith Without Borders, published by the University of Chicago Press in 2011. Her new book, Seeing Double: Baudelaire’s Modernity, published with Chicago in 2011, argues (among other things) that Baudelaire’s modernity is largely informed by his obsession with Original Sin. She has written the introduction to a book collecting the essays Jacques Derrida published in Critical Inquiry over the years (forthcoming from the University of Chicago Press).

Paul Mendes-Flohr
Dorothy Grant Maclear Professor of Modern Jewish History and Thought; Associate Faculty in the Department of History
Ph.D. (Brandeis University)
Paul Mendes-Flohr’s major research interests include modern Jewish intellectual history, modern Jewish philosophy and religious thought, philosophy of religion, German intellectual history, and the history and sociology of intellectuals. Together with Bernd Witte, he serves as editor-in-chief of the twenty-two volume German edition of the collected works of Martin Buber, sponsored by the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, and the Heinrich Heine Universität, Düsseldorf, Germany. He has recently published Progress and its Discontents (in Hebrew), The Jew in the Modern: A Documentary History (with Jehuda Reinharz), and Encrucijadas en la Modernidad (Buenos Aries). He is the editor of a series on German-Jewish literature and Cultural History for the University of Chicago Press. He is currently completing a biography of Martin Buber to be published by Yale University Press. He is also currently completing for publication two edited volumes, one on Gustav Landauer and another on Dialogue as Trans-Disciplinary Concept.

Stephen C. Meredith
Professor in the Department of Pathology, the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, The Department of Neurology, and the College; Associate Faculty
M.D. (Washington University)
Ph.D. (The University of Chicago)
Stephen C. Meredith works on the biophysics of protein structure, concentrating on amyloid proteins associated with neurodegenerative diseases. He also teaches courses in the College and the Divinity School, including ones on James Joyce’s Ulysses, and Dostoevsky’s Brother Karamazov, and on the problem of evil, focusing on St. Thomas Aquinas and Augustine. His main theological interest is in the problem of evil. In this connection, he is currently writing a book on philosophical (especially metaphysical) and literary perspectives on disease. His current interests also center on the impact of biotechnology and the genetic revolution on the definition of human nature.

Margaret M. Mitchell
Dean and Shailer Mathews Professor of New Testament and Early Christian Literature
M.A., Ph.D. (University of Chicago)
Margaret M. Mitchell is a literary historian of ancient Christianity. Her research and teaching span a range of topics in New Testament and early Christian writings up through the end of the fourth century. She analyzes how the earliest Christians literally wrote their way into history, developing a literary and religious culture that was deeply embedded in Hellenistic Judaism and the wider Greco-Roman world, while also proclaiming its distinctiveness from each. Special interests include the Pauline letters (both in their inaugural moments and in the history of their effects), the poetics and politics of ancient biblical interpretation, and the intersection of text, image, and artifact in the fashioning of early Christian culture.
Prof. Mitchell is the author of four books: Paul and the Rhetoric of Reconciliation (1991); The Heavenly Trumpet: John Chrysostom and the Art of Pauline Interpretation (2000); The “Belly-Myther” of Endor: Interpretations of 1 Kingdoms 28 in the Early Church (with Rowan A. Greer, 2007), and Paul, the Corinthians and the Birth of Christian Hermeneutics (2010). She is also the coeditor of two volumes, including, with Frances M. Young, The Cambridge History of Christianity, Volume 1: Origins to Constantine (2010). Recent articles include “The Poetics and Politics of Christian Baptism in the Abercius Monument” and “Peter’s ‘Hypocrisy’ and Paul’s: Two ‘Hypocrites’ at the Foundation of Earliest Christianity?”
Prof. Mitchell has received grants from the Luce and Guggenheim Foundations. She is an elected member of Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas, l’Association inter-
nationale d’études patristiques and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
She is currently working on a volume of translations of occasional sermons by John Chrysostom on Pauline passages (for the *Writings From the Greco-Roman World* series) and a commentary on 2 Corinthians.

**Martha C. Nussbaum**

Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics in the Law School, the Department of Philosophy, and the College; Associate Faculty in the Departments of Classics and Political Science; Member of the Committee on Southern Asian Studies; Associate Faculty

M.A., Ph.D. (Harvard University)

Martha Nussbaum is a philosopher whose work focuses on ancient Greek philosophy, contemporary moral and political philosophy, feminism, and the connections between philosophy and literature. She is a Board Member of the Human Rights Program and is the founder and Coordinator of the Center for Comparative Constitutionalism.

She has taught at Harvard, Brown, and Oxford Universities, chaired the American Philosophical Association’s Committee on International Cooperation, the Committee on the Status of Women, and the Committee for Public Philosophy, been a member of the Council of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a member of the Board of the American Council of Learned Societies and has received honorary degrees from thirty-seven colleges and universities in the U.S., Canada, Asia, Africa, and Europe. She is the recipient of numerous awards and honors. She received the Grawemeyer Award in Education in 2002, the Barnard College Medal of Distinction in 2003, the Radcliffe Alumnae Recognition Award in 2007, and the Centennial Medal of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University in 2010. In 2009 she won the ASK Award from the German Social Science Research Council (WZB) for her contributions to “social system reform,” and the American Philosophical Society’s Henry M. Phillips Prize in Jurisprudence. In 2012 she was awarded the Prince of Asturias Prize in the Social Sciences.


**Willemien Otten**

Professor of Theology and of the History of Christianity

M.A., Ph.D. (University of Amsterdam)

Willemien Otten studies the history of Christianity and Christian thought with a focus on the western medieval and the early Christian intellectual tradition, including the continuity of Platonic themes. Having worked on Johannes Scottus Eriugena early on, her focus shifted to the twelfth century culminating in her book *From Paradise to Paradigm: A Study of Twelfth-Century Humanism* (Leiden, 2004), in which she offered a re-interpretation of Abelard and ‘Chartrian’ authors like Bernard Silvestris and Alan of Lille. Throughout her writings Otten is especially interested in analyzing (early) medieval thought and theology as weaving biblical, ancient, and patristic influences into the open cultural outlook of medieval humanism. Seeing theological questions embedded in broader historical and interdisciplinary study, and continuing her interest in humanism, Otten is currently involved in a book project on ideas of nature and self, linking, among others, Eriugena and Ralph Waldo Emerson. In her recent coedited volume (with M.B. Pranger and B.S. Hellemans) *On Religion and Memory* (New York, 2013) she addresses some of the methodological concerns in thinking along such broad cultural lines.

In collaboration with Editor-in-Chief Karla Pollmann, Willemien Otten served as Editor for the *Oxford Guide to the Historical Reception of Augustine* (430–2000), a multi-year project now completed and to be published in three volumes by Oxford University Press in fall 2013. A Dutch native, Otten enjoys putting a practical spin on humanistic study by serving on the Dutch National Task Force for Sustainable Humanities (http://www.regiegeesteswetenschappen.nl), whose aim is to strengthen the position of the humanities in the various Dutch universities.
Lucy K. Pick

Director of Undergraduate Studies and Senior Lecturer in the History of Christianity; Associate Faculty in the Department of History

M.S.L. (Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies)
M.A., Ph.D. (University of Toronto)

Lucy Pick is a historian of medieval religious thought and practice. Her current research and teaching interests include the relationships between gender and religion, connections between historical writing and theology, the development of monastic thought and practice, reading and writing as spiritual exercises, and the ways in which religion shapes lives through ritual. Her book, Conflict and Coexistence: Archbishop Rodrigo and the Muslims and Jews of Thirteenth-Century Spain, discusses Jewish, Christian, and Muslim relations in thirteenth-century Toledo by making connections between the political theology, historical and polemical writings, scholarly patronage, and politics of Archbishop Rodrigo Jiménez de Rada (1209–1247) and shows how majority groups define themselves by framing and reframing discourses about minority theological competitors. Dr. Pick is currently working on a monograph studying the intersection of gender, politics, and religion in the Middle Ages by examining the careers of royal women in early medieval Spain, especially their role as consecrated virgins, to discover in what their power consisted, from where it was derived, and how it was represented.

She also expects her first novel, Pilgrimage, to be published in 2014. It is a story about the Middle Ages that explores betrayal, friendship, illness, miracles, healing, and redemption on the road to Compostela.

Tahera Qutbuddin

Associate Professor of Arabic Literature, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and the College; Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities; Associate Faculty
Ph.D. (Harvard University)

Tahera Qutbuddin’s research focuses on intersections of the literary, the religious, and the political in classical Arabic poetry and prose. She has written a book titled Al-Mu’ayyad al-Shirazi and Fatimid Da’wa Poetry: A Case of Commitment in Classical Arabic Literature (Brill, 2005), and edited and translated al-Quda’i’s compilation A Treasury of Virtues: Sermons, Sayings, and Teachings of ‘Ali, with the 100 Proverbs attributed to the compilation of al-Jahiz (New York University Press, Library of Arabic Literature series, 2013). She was awarded a 2008–2009 fellowship from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, which she is using for her current research in Arabic oratory (khataba) and the compilation of ‘Ali’s words titled The Path of Eloquence (Nahal-balagha). She has also published articles on the Qur’an, the Prophet Muhammad, Fatimid-Tayyibi-Isma’ili literature, Arabic in India and Islamic preaching. Her teaching includes topics in Islamic thought and literature, classical Arabic prose, poetry and poetics, and classical Arabic syntax.

James T. Robinson

Associate Professor of the History of Judaism
M.Phil. (Oxford University)
M.A., Ph.D. (Harvard University)

James Robinson’s research focuses on medieval Jewish intellectual history, philosophy, and biblical exegesis in the Islamic world and Christian Europe. His main interests lie in the literary and social dimensions of philosophy, and the relation between philosophy and religion. Specific areas of expertise include ethics, political philosophy, and psychology; the history of philosophical-allegorical exegesis; Karaites and Rabbanites; the translation and reception of Greek and Arabic philosophy and science; Jewish Sufism and Neoplatonism; Maimonides, Maimonideanism, and the Maimonidean controversies; religious polemic; sermons and homiletical literature; and the interactions between the Jewish, Islamic, and Christian intellectual traditions. He has published two books and one edited volume: Samuel Ibn Tibbon’s Commentary on Ecclesiastes, The Book of the Soul of Man (Texts and Studies in Medieval and Early Modern Judaism 20. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2007); The Cultures of Maimonideanism: New Approaches to the History of Jewish Thought (Leiden and Boston: E.J. Brill, 2009); and Asceticism, Eschatology, Opposition to Philosophy: The Arabic Translation and Commentary of Salmon b. Yeroham on Qohelet (Ecclesiastes), a critical edition of the Judaeo-Arabic text with annotated English translation and introduction (Leiden and Boston: E.J. Brill, Karaite Texts and Studies, 2012).

His courses include Jewish Philosophy in the Middle Ages; Medieval Commentaries on Ecclesiastes; Readings in Maimonides’ Guide of the Perplexed; Abraham in History, Literature, and Thought (with Hans-Josef Kluck); The Jewish Study of the Bible in the Middle Ages; The Jews in Medieval Spain; Interactions between Jewish Philosophy and Literature in the Middle Ages; Jewish Heretics and Apostates in the Middle Ages; Soul, Intellect and Immortality in Medieval Jewish Thought; Science and Scripture: Jewish Philosophical Exegesis in the Middle Ages; Animal Spirituality in the Middle Ages; Readings in Abraham Ibn Ezra; Medieval Jewish Thought: Philosophy, Sufism, Kabbalah; The Buddha in Barcelona (with Matthew Kapstein); Reading Hasy Ibn Yaqzan; Jerusalem during the Middle Ages: Conquest, Pilgrimage and the Imaginaire; Reading Other People’s Scriptures (with Lucy Pick); Islamic and Jewish Neoplatonism;
Richard A. Rosengarten

Associate Professor of Religion and Literature

M.A., Ph.D. (University of Chicago)

Richard Rosengarten works in religion and literature, where he pursues interests in genres of narrative (especially the novel), in hermeneutics, literary theory, and aesthetics, and in the development of religious thought through the “long” eighteenth century. His book *Henry Fielding and the Narration of Providence: Divine Design and the Incursions of Evil* locates Fielding’s novels in the contexts of the debates about poetic justice in the drama, and the deism controversy’s discussions of natural religion toward the claim that the eighteenth-century English novel engages broader theological questions about the security of classic notions of providential intervention in a post-Newtonian universe. He is completing a book on Roman Catholicism between the Vatican Councils under the title *Styles of Catholicism: Flannery O’Connor, Frida Kahlo, Simone Weil*, and plans to undertake a study of satire as a mode of apophatic language from Rabelais to Swift.

J. David Schloen

Associate Professor of Syro-Palestinian Archaeology in the Oriental Institute and the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations; Associate Faculty

Ph.D. (Harvard University)

David Schloen specializes in the archaeology and history of the ancient Levant (Syria and Palestine). Born and raised in Canada, he earned a bachelor’s degree in computer science from the University of Toronto and worked professionally in that field before turning to biblical studies and archaeology. For more than twenty years he has engaged in annual excavations in Israel and Turkey, for much of that time at the ancient seaport of Ashkelon on the Mediterranean coast south of Tel Aviv; he is currently coediting a series of excavation report volumes on that site. Since 2006, he has been the director of the Neubauer Expedition, a large-scale archaeological project to explore the walled city of Sam’al (modern Zincirli) in what is today southeastern Turkey, sixty miles north of Antakya (classical Antioch). In addition to research and publication related to these excavation projects, he has maintained a longstanding interest in the structure and operation of the small kingdoms that flourished along the eastern Mediterranean seaboard during the Bronze and Iron Ages. He is especially interested in the interaction between mundane social and economic practices and the symbolism of social order that shaped and sustained those practices. His 2001 book *The House of the Father as Fact and Symbol* is an effort in this direction, and he has been slowly working on a companion volume that examines the sweeping economic and ideological changes that occurred during the “Axial Age” of the first millennium B.C., in ancient Israel and elsewhere, as the “patrimonial” palace economies gave way to vast new empires. More immediately, he is writing an introductory textbook, *The Bible and Archaeology: Exploring the History and Mythology of Ancient Israel* (to be published in the Yale Anchor Bible series), which explains how ancient artifacts, inscriptions, and other archaeological discoveries help us to understand the Bible.

Susan Schreiner

Professor of the History of Christianity and Theology

M.Div. (Harvard University)

Ph.D. (Duke University)

Susan Schreiner is an historian of early modern Europe (14th–16th centuries). Her research and teaching interests include the Protestant Reformation, early modern Catholicism, and the Renaissance; in addition, her teaching interests extend to twentieth-century Protestant theologians, including Jacques Ellul, Reinhold Niebuhr, Langdon Gilkey, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and Karl Barth. Her first book, *The Theater of His Glory*, examined John Calvin’s understanding of creation, providence, and the created order. Her second book, *Where Shall Wisdom be Found? Calvin’s Exegesis of Job from Medieval and Modern Perspectives* analyzes the history of the interpretation of Job in such figures as Gregory the Great, Maimonides, Thomas Aquinas, John Calvin, and modern figures such as Jung, MacLeish, and Kafka. Her most recent book, *Are You Alone Wise? The Search for Certainty in the Early Modern Era*, focuses on the various epistemological and theological debates from Ockham to Shakespeare, including Luther, Zwingli, Calvin, Münzter, Franck, Hubmaier, Teresa of Avila, Montaigne and Shakespeare. Her courses include: Readings in Luther, Luther and the Old Testament, Calvin’s Institutes, Renaissance and Reformation, The Problem with Time, Seminar: Luther, Montaigne, and Shakespeare, and Early Modern Catholicism.
William Schweiker

Edward L. Ryerson Distinguished Service Professor of Theological Ethics; also in the College and Director of the Martin Marty Center

M.Div. (Duke University)
Ph.D. (University of Chicago)

William Schweiker works in the field of theological ethics. His scholarship and teaching engage theological and ethical questions attentive to global dynamics, comparative religious ethics, the history of ethics, and hermeneutical philosophy. A frequent lecturer and visiting professor at universities around the world, he has been deeply involved in collaborative international projects. His books include Mimetic Reflections: A Study in Hermeneutics, Theology and Ethics (1990); Responsibility and Christian Ethics (1995); Power, Value and Conviction: Theological Ethics in the Postmodern Age (1998); Theological Ethics and Global Dynamics: In the Time of Many Worlds (2004); Religion and the Human Future: An Essay in Theological Humanism (2008, with David E. Klemm); and, most recently, Dust that Breathes: Christian Faith and the New Humanisms (2010). Professor Schweiker has published numerous articles and award-winning essays, as well as edited and contributed to six volumes, including, most recently, Humanity Before God: Contemporary Faces of Jewish, Christian and Islamic Ethics (2006). He is also chief editor and contributor to A Companion to Religious Ethics (2004), a comprehensive and innovative work in the field of comparative religious ethics. He is currently working on a forthcoming book with Wiley-Blackwell, titled Religious Ethics: Meaning and Method. His present research is for a book on ethics and the integrity of life. Professor Schweiker is also the Director of the Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion, the research arm of the Divinity School, and an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church.

Michael Sells

John Henry Barrows Professor of Islamic History and Literature
Ph.D. (University of Chicago)

Michael Sells studies and teaches in the areas of Qur’anic studies; Sufism; Arabic and Islamic love poetry; mystical literature (Greek, Islamic, Christian, and Jewish); and religion and violence. The new and expanded edition of his book Approaching the Qur’an: The Early Revelations appeared in 2007. He has published three volumes on Arabic poetry: Desert Tracings: Six Classic Arabian Odes, which focuses upon the pre-Islamic period; Stations of Desire, which focuses upon the love poetry of Ibn al-‘Arabi; and The Cambridge History of Arabic Literature, Al-Andalus, which he coedited and to which he contributed. His books on mysticism include Early Islamic Mysticism, translations and commentaries on influential mystical passages from the Qur’an, hadith, Arabic poetry, and early Sufi writings; and Mystical Languages of Unsaying, an examination of apophatic language, with special attention to Plotinus, John the Scot, Ibn al-‘Arabi, Meister Eckhart, and Marguerite Porete. His work on religion and violence includes: The Bridge Betrayed: Religion and Genocide in Bosnia; and The New Crusades: Constructing the Muslim Enemy, which he coedited and to which he contributed. He teaches courses on the Qur’an, Islamic love poetry, comparative mystical literature, Arabic Sufi poetry, Arabic religious texts, and Ibn al-‘Arabi.

Jonathan Z. Smith

Robert O. Anderson Distinguished Service Professor in the Humanities in the College; Associate Faculty
Ph.D. (Yale University)

Jonathan Z. Smith is a historian of religion whose research has focused on such wide-ranging subjects as ritual theory, Hellenistic religions, nineteenth-century Maori cults, and the notorious events of Jonestown, Guyana. Some of his works include Map Is Not Territory; Imagining Religion: From Babylon to Jonestown; and To Take Place: Toward Theory in Ritual. In his book Drudgery Divine: On the Comparison of Early Christianities and the Religions of Late Antiquity, he demonstrates how four centuries of scholarship on early Christianities manifest a Catholic–Protestant polemic. A collection of essays entitled Relating Religion: Essays in the Study of Religion was published in 2004.

Jeffrey Stackert

Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible

M.T.S. (Boston University School of Theology)
Ph.D. (Brandeis University)

Jeffrey Stackert is a biblical scholar who situates the Hebrew Bible in the context of the larger ancient Near Eastern world in which it was composed. His research focuses especially on the composition of the Pentateuch, ancient Near Eastern prophecy, cultic texts, and ancient Near Eastern law. His first book, Rewriting the Torah: Literary Revision in Deuteronomy and the Holiness Legislation (Mohr Siebeck, 2007), addresses literary correspondences among the biblical legal corpora and especially the relationships between similar laws in Deuteronomy and pentateuchal Priestly literature. It was honored with the 2010 John Templeton Award for Theological Promise. He has published essays in various volumes and journals, including Journal of Biblical Literature, Catholic Biblical Quarterly, Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions, Vetus
Daniel P. Sulmasy

Kilbride-Clinton Professor of Medicine and Ethics in the Department of Medicine and the Divinity School; Associate Director of the MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics in the Department of Medicine

M.D. (Cornell University)
Ph.D. (Georgetown University)

Dr. Sulmasy is an internist and an ethicist. His research interests encompass both theoretical and empirical investigations of the ethics of end-of-life decision-making, ethics education, and spirituality in medicine. He has done extensive work on the role of intention in medical action, especially as it relates to the rule of double effect and the distinction between killing and allowing to die. He is also interested in the philosophy of medicine and the logic of diagnostic and therapeutic reasoning. His work in spirituality is focused primarily on the spiritual dimensions of the practice of medicine. His empirical studies have explored topics such as decision-making by surrogates on behalf of patients who are nearing death, and informed consent for biomedical research.

He continues to practice medicine part-time as a member of the University faculty practice. He completed his residency, chief residency, and post-doctoral fellowship in General Internal Medicine at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. He has previously held faculty positions at Georgetown University and New York Medical College. He has served on numerous governmental advisory committees, and was appointed to the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Problems by President Obama in April 2010. He is the author of four books: The Healer’s Calling (1997), and, most recently, The Unrepentant Renaissance from Petrarch to Shakespeare to Milton (University of Chicago Press, 2011), which includes chapters or parts of chapters on Petrarch, Luther, Shakespeare, Ignatius Loyola, François de Sales, Montaigne, Descartes, and Milton. He has also coedited a number of important collections of essay on literature and culture in the early modern period. His teaching interests include courses on Shakespeare, on “Renaissance Intellectual Texts,” and on ”“Metaphysical” Poetry—from the 17th century to the Present.” He has written on twentieth-century poetry and poetics as well.
Wesley Sun

Director of Field Education and Community Engagement

M.Div. (University of Chicago)

An ordained minister in the American Baptist Churches, Wesley Sun received his M.Div. from the Divinity School in 2008. After completing a two-year Lilly Residency specializing in pastoral care, Wesley became the founding Director of Hyde Park Union Church’s Gilead Ministry—a ministry field education and training program of his own design. While directing Gilead, Wesley also began training as a CPE Supervisor and served as both parish pastor and hospital chaplain on the South Side of Chicago.

Wesley’s interests in theology, storytelling, and the philosophy of language are also expressed creatively through art. Wesley co-founded Sun Bros Studios with his brother and is the co-author of Chinatown, a surreal graphic novel that examines nihilism and the supernatural through the genre of magical realism. The Sun Bros are currently working on Monkey—an irreverent, postmodern retelling of the Monkey King stories from Chinese literature scheduled for publication in 2014.

Christian K. Wedemeyer

Associate Professor of the History of Religions; also in the Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations

M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D. (Columbia University)

Christian Wedemeyer is an historian of religions whose interests comprehend theory and method in the human sciences, the history of modern scholarship on religion and culture, and issues of history, textuality, and ritual in the Buddhist traditions. Within these very general domains, much of his research has concerned the esoteric (Tantric) Buddhism of India and Tibet. He has written on the modern historiography of Tantric Buddhism; antimomanism in the Indian esoteric traditions; canonicity, textual criticism, and strategies of legitimate authority in classical Tibetan scholarship; and the semiotics of esoteric Buddhist ritual.


Ronald M. Davidson), Hermeneutics, Politics, and the History of Religions: The Contested Legacies of Joachim Wach and Mircea Eliade (Oxford 2010, with Wendy Doniger), and In Vimalakirti’s House: A Festschrift in Honor of Robert A.F. Thurman on the Occasion of his 70th Birthday (AIBS 2013, with John D. Dunne and Thomas F. Yarnall). He is currently working on a collection of translations of ritual texts related to the Guhyasamāja Tantra and is developing a monograph on commentarial practices in Tantric Buddhism.

His course offerings include Classical Theories of Religion, Contemporary Perspectives on the History of Religions, Introduction to Religion and the Human Sciences, Indian Buddhism, Tibetan Buddhism, Mahayana Sutra Literature, Issues in Indian Esoteric Buddhism, Tibetan Auto/biography, Buddhism in the Americas, and Ritual in South Asian Buddhism.

Christopher J. Wild

Associate Professor of Germanic Studies and the College; Director of Undergraduate Studies of the Department of Germanic Studies; Associate faculty

Ph.D. (John Hopkins University)

Professor Wild is the author of Theater der Keuschheit–Keuschheit des Theaters. Zu einer Geschichte der (Anti-)Theatralität von Gryphius bis Kleist (Rombach: Freiburg, 2003), which traces the profound historical transformation of theatricality that takes place in German theater from the Baroque to Classicism. Furthermore, he has edited (with Helmut Puff) Zwischen den Disziplinen? Perspektiven der Frühneuzeitforschung (Göttingen: Wallstein Verlag, 2003) and several thematic issues of Germanic Review (with Eric Downing) and Modern Language Notes (with Rüdiger Campe). His current projects examine the ways in which theology and religion inform developments that are generally considered genuinely modern. Most immediately, he is working on a book that asks the seemingly simple question why Descartes’ founding text of modern philosophy was titled Meditations on First Philosophy in order to take its generic affiliation seriously. A more long-term project concerns a media history of the Reformation.
Brook A. Ziporyn

Professor of Chinese Religion, Philosophy and Contemporary Thought

Ph.D. (University of Michigan)

Brook Ziporyn is a scholar of ancient and medieval Chinese religion and philosophy, expositor and translator of some of the most complex philosophical texts and concepts of the Chinese religious traditions. Professor Ziporyn received his B.A. in East Asian Languages and Civilizations from the University of Chicago, and his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. Prior to joining the Divinity School faculty, he has taught Chinese philosophy and religion at the University of Michigan (Department of East Asian Literature and Cultures), Northwestern University (Department of Religion and Department of Philosophy), Harvard University (Department of East Asian Literature and Civilization) and the National University of Singapore (Department of Philosophy).

Ziporyn is the author of six published books: Evil And/Or/As the Good: Omnicentric Holism, Intersubjectivity and Value Paradox in Tiantai Buddhist Thought (Harvard, 2000), The Penumbra Unbound: The Neo-Taoist Philosophy of Guo Xiang (SUNY Press, 2003), Being and Ambiguity: Philosophical Experiments With Tiantai Buddhism (Open Court, 2004); Zhuangzi: The Essential Writings with Selections from Traditional Commentaries (Hackett, 2009); Ironies of Oneness and Difference: Coherence in Early Chinese Thought; Prolegomena to the Study of Li (SUNY Press, 2012); and Beyond Oneness and Difference: Li and Coherence in Chinese Buddhist Thought and its Antecedents (SUNY Press, 2013). He is currently working on a cross-cultural inquiry into the themes of death, time and perception, tentatively entitled Against Being Here Now, as well as a book-length exposition of atheism as a form of religious and mystical experience in the intellectual histories of Europe, India and China.

Recent Faculty Awards and Honors

Divinity School faculty were recognized three years in a row for excellence in graduate teaching and mentoring.

Kevin Hector, Assistant Professor of Theology and Philosophy of Religions, was recognized in 2013; in 2012 Wendy Doniger, the Mircea Eliade Distinguished Service Professor of History of Religions was recognized; and William Schweiker, Edward L. Ryerson Distinguished Service Professor of Theological Ethics and Director of the Martin Marty Center was recognized in 2011.

The Faculty Awards for Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Mentoring recognize regular, full-time faculty members in the divisions for exemplary graduate teaching. The awards are presented at Spring Convocation.

The citation for Professor Hector’s award reads: “With his engaging and rigorous classroom style and incisive critical attention to students’ intellectual work, joined by generous encouragement and personalized mentoring, Kevin Hector assists each student to find her or his own voice in the disciplined conversations that constitute the academic study of religion.”
Recent Faculty Awards and Honors

Jean-Luc Marion was elected the recipient of a Humboldt Research Award from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. The award is granted in recognition of a researcher’s entire achievements to date to academics whose fundamental discoveries, new theories, or insights have had a significant impact on their own discipline and who are expected to continue producing cutting-edge achievements in the future. Award winners are invited to spend a period of up to one year cooperating on a long-term research project with specialist colleagues at a research institution in Germany.

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences recently announced its 2013 class of fellows. Four scholars and one distinguished trustee from the University of Chicago have been elected to the prestigious Academy. Michael Fishbane, the Nathan Cummings Distinguished Service Professor of Jewish Studies in the Divinity School and the College is one of the faculty members elected to this honor, and joins one of the nation’s most prestigious honorary societies and a leading center for independent policy research.

In recognition of his contribution to the promotion of French culture, Arnold I. Davidson has been named to the rank of Officer in the Ordre des Palmes Académiques. Entering with the rank of Officer means that Prof. Davidson enters this prestigious chivalric order with special distinction.

The Ordre des Palmes Académiques (Order of Academic Palms) is an Order of Chivalry of France for academics and cultural and educational figures, comprised of three ranks (Knight, Officer, and Commander). It was founded by the Emperor Napoléon as a reward for devotion and accomplishment in the realm of teaching, scholarship, and research. Later, it was extended to non-French citizens to acknowledge their promotion of French language or significant achievement in the field of education.