In keeping with its long-standing traditions and policies, the University of Chicago considers students, employees, applicants for admission or employment, and those seeking access to University programs on the basis of individual merit. The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, age, status as an individual with a disability, protected veteran status, genetic information, or other protected classes under the law (including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972). For additional information regarding the University of Chicago’s Policy on Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct, please see: http://harassmentpolicy.uchicago.edu/page/policy
The University of Chicago
Divinity School
Teaching Faculty Book
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 1890. 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, Literature and Visual Culture, Religions in America, Religious Ethics, and Theology.

http://divinity.uchicago.edu/faculty
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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 course offerings can be found on our website.
Anthropology and Sociology of Religion
Hussein Ali Agrama
Alireza Doostdar
Angie Heo
William T.S. Mazzarella
Omar M. McRoberts
Stephan Palmié
Jenny Trinitapoli

Bible
Simeon Chavel
Jas’ Elsner
Michael Fishbane
Jeff Jay
David Martinez
Margaret M. Mitchell
J. David Schloen
Jeffrey Stackert
Sofia Torallas-Tovar

History of Christianity
Rachel Fulton Brown
Curtis J. Evans
Karin Krause
Margaret M. Mitchell
Willemien Otten
Susan Schreiner

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

History of Religions
Paul Copp
Christopher Faraone
Matthew Kapstein
James Ketelaar
James T. Robinson
Gary Tubb
Christian K. Wedemeyer

Islamic Studies
Hussein Ali Agrama
Yousef Casewit
Fred M. Donner
Alireza Doostdar
Ahmed El Shamsy
Franklin Lewis
Aasim Padela
Taheera Quibuddin
James T. Robinson
Michael Sells
John E. Woods

History of Religions
Paul Copp
Christopher Faraone
Matthew Kapstein
James Ketelaar
James T. Robinson
Gary Tubb
Christian K. Wedemeyer

Religion, Literature and Visual Culture
Philip V. Bohlman
Jas’ Elsner
Sarah Hammerschlag
Karin Krause
Aden Kumler
Na’amah Rokem
Richard A. Rosengarten
Eric Santner
Eric Slauter
Christopher J. Wild

Religions in America
Curtis J. Evans
Omar M. McRoberts
Eric Slauter

Religious Ethics
Sarah E. Fredericks
Stephen C. Meredith
Richard B. Miller
Martha C. Nussbaum
Aasim Padela
William Schweiker

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

Ministry Faculty
Cynthia Gano Lindner
Wesley Sun
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. He was named a Carnegie Scholars Program Fellow for 2008–2010. He is the author of Questioning Secularism: Islam, Sovereignty and the Rule of Law in Egypt (University of Chicago Press, 2012), which 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 ideas. He is also the author of, recently, “Religious Freedom and the Bind of Suspicion in Contemporary Secularity” in After Secular Law (2015) and “Justice between Islamic Shari’a and Western Legal Tradition: Remarks on the Comparative Context” in A Companion to the Anthropology of the Middle East (2016).

He currently has ongoing projects on the historical and contemporary relationships between Muslim and Jewish communities in France; the history of intelligence agencies and their impact on modern liberal democratic imaginaries; biohacking, “alternative” science and forgotten knowledges of the body; and Phenomenology.

Daniel A. Arnold
Associate Professor of the Philosophy of Religions; also in the College
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.

Philip V. Bohlman

Ludwig Rosenberger Distinguished Service Professor in Jewish History and of the Humanities, 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); Revival and Reconciliation: Sacred Music in the Making of European Modernity (2013); and Song Loves the Masses: Herder on Music and Nationalism (with J. G. Herder, 2017). Current research includes the five-volume “Oxford Musics of the World” and, with Anna C. Schultz, a volume on Religion and Music for Cambridge University Press. Wie sängen wir Seinen Gesang auf dem Boden der Fremde! Jüdische Musik zwischen Aschkenas und Moderne (Berlin: LIT Verlag) is forthcoming in 2018.

He is Artistic Director of the New Budapest Orpheum Society, a Jewish cabaret and ensemble-in-residence at the University of Chicago, whose fourth CD, As Dreams Fall Apart: Cabaret during the Golden Age of Jewish Cinema, 1925–1955, was a Grammy Award Nominee in 2016. Bohlman is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a Corresponding Member of the British Society. In 2014, he held the Franz Rosenzweig Guest Professorship at the University of Kassel. Among his awards are the Derek Allen Prize from the British Academy, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the 2018 Koizumi Fumio Prize of Japan. He is Honorarprofessor at the Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien Hannover.
Rachel Fulton Brown

Associate Professor of Medieval History in the Department of History and in Fundamentals; also in 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 also working on a translation of John of Garland’s Epithalamium beate virginis Marie and editing a volume on Medieval Marian Devotion for Brill’s Companions to the Christian Tradition. She is the recipient of a 2008 Guggenheim fellowship, which she used to work towards her book Mary and the Art of Prayer (2017).

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

Yousef Casewit

Assistant Professor of Qur’anic Studies
M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., Yale University

Professor Casewit is a Qur’anic studies scholar. His research interests include intellectual history of North Africa and al-Andalus, Muslim perceptions of the Bible, and medieval commentaries on the ninety-nine divine names. He has several publications, most recently The Mystics of al-Andalus: Ibn Barrajan and Islamic Thought in the Twelfth Century (Cambridge University Press, 2017), a study on Ibn Barrajan’s life and teachings. He is also the author of a critical edition of a Qur’an commentary by Ibn Barrajan (Brill, TSQ Series, 2016). Prior to joining the Divinity School, Professor Casewit was a Humanities Research Fellow at New York University Abu Dhabi, and an Assistant Professor of Arabic Intellectual Heritage and Culture at the American University of Sharjah. He completed his M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D. in Islamic Studies at Yale University’s Religious Studies Department. Current projects include a translation and critical edition of a Sufi-Philosophical commentary on the divine names by the Algerian scholar ‘Afif al-Din al-Tilimsani (d. 1291) for the Library of Arabic Literature, NYU Press.

Born in Egypt and raised in Morocco, he is fluent in Arabic, French and Spanish. Yousef has traveled throughout the Islamic world, and has studied with Muslim scholars in Morocco, Syria, and Mauritania.

Simeon Chavel

Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible; also in the College
Ph.D., The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Dr. Chavel studies the literature of the Hebrew Bible, the religion of ancient Israel and Judea, and their relationship. His approach combines theory of literature, religious studies, the ancient historical and social context, and early Jewish interpretation. Dr. Chavel’s first book, Oracular Law and Priestly Historiography in the Torah (Mohr Siebeck 2014), studies the combination of law and narrative in a distinct set of stories. His second book, God in the Eyes of Israel: A History of the Religious Imagination in Ancient Israel & Judea, traces the growing use of text as a discrete site of religious innovation and experience that draws on and reconfigures the lived spheres of family, region, royalty, and nationhood. Published work can be found at Academia.edu.

Dr. Chavel seeks to help students develop creative research agendas and launch a career. He supports varied types of doctoral projects, defined by text, historical period, phenomenon or critical lens, and his courses range across the biblical corpus, themes running through it, and disciplines relevant to its study. A complete list of offerings and an academic bio can be found at LinkedIn.
Paul Copp

Associate Professor in Chinese Religion and Thought, East Asian Languages and Civilizations, and the College; Associate Faculty

Ph.D., Princeton University

Paul Copp studies the intellectual, material, and visual cultures of Chinese religion, with a focus on the 8th through the 12th centuries. He is the author of *The Body Incantatory: Spells and the Ritual Imagination in Medieval Chinese Buddhism* (Columbia, 2014), and co-editor, with Wu Hung, of the 2018 volume, *Refiguring East Asian Religious Art: Buddhist Devotion and Funerary Practice* (UChicago Center for the Art of East Asia / Art Media Resources). At present, his main project is a paleographical and material-historical study of ritual handbooks and liturgies discovered among the cache of materials at Dunhuang. Its working title is “Seal and Scroll: The Ritualist’s Craft at Dunhuang and Beyond.”

Ryan Coyne

Associate Professor of the Philosophy of Religions and Theology; also in the College; Director, Program in Undergraduate Studies

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 history of phenomenology, hermeneutics, and deconstruction. His first book, *Heidegger’s Confessions: The Remains of Saint Augustine in Being and Time and Beyond* (University of Chicago Press, 2015) examines the shifting roles assigned to religion, and to Augustine of Hippo more specifically, in Martin Heidegger’s early, middle, and later works. Coyne is currently completing a second book tentatively entitled *A Spectacle for the Gods: Nietzsche and the Question of Faith*. In it, he analyzes Friedrich Nietzsche’s struggle to redefine faith after the death of God, arguing that this struggle sheds new light on recent debates in continental philosophy of religion. A third book-length project, on deconstruction and method in the philosophy of religion, is tentatively entitled *The Dreams of Metaphysicians*. Coyne’s teaching generally focuses on the themes of subjectivity, temporality, and the nature of religious experience as they appear in ancient, medieval, and modern texts. His longstanding interests include Christian mysticism, the history of Augustinian theology, and Freudian 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, 2010), one of the first theological works to connect multidisciplinary conversations about environmental and economic vulnerability with theological anthropology and sociality. She is now writing a book that is tentatively titled, “Glorious Life?” It engages historical-theological debates about the glory of given and made things in order to foster critical sensibilities about the aliveness of life amidst contemporary challenges and complexities. It was begun as part of the Enhancing Life Project at the University of Chicago and Ruhr-University Bochum, funded by the John Templeton Foundation.

Her essays have addressed protest and resistance as theological themes, feminist and womanist theologies, liberal and humanist strands of the Reformed tradition, the use of fiction in theological thinking, pilgrimage as a theological theme, and “experience” in contemporary theology. She is the editor of *The Responsibility of the Church for Society and Other Essays by H. Richard Niebuhr* (2008), which collected Niebuhr’s various writings on ecclesiology and Christian community. She serves as a member of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches.
Arnold I. Davidson

Robert O. Anderson Distinguished Service Professor of the Philosophy of Judaism and Philosophy of Religions in the Divinity School; also in the Department of Philosophy, 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 tried to combine traditional Jewish learning with modern philosophical ideas. A focus of his current work concerns the history of attempts to derive philosophical and theological conclusions from Halakhic argumentation.

He has taught at many French and Italian institutions, and is an honorary member of the faculty at the University Ca’Foscarì Venice. He is also European editor of the journal Critical Inquiry. Most recently he has been a Distinguished Visiting Professor at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In 2018 he was named an Honorary Fellow of The Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Antisemitism, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In addition, he has been the jazz critic for the Sunday cultural supplement, “Domenica”, of the Italian newspaper Il Sole 24 Ore.

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 co-editor 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 most recent book is Religión, razón y espiritualidad (Ediciones Alpha Decay).
His ongoing projects revolve around figures as diverse as Pierre Hadot, Joseph Soloveitchik, Michel Foucault and Primo Levi, and around themes that range from the history of spiritual exercises and practices of self-transformation to the relation between Talmudic and philosophical argumentation, and the aesthetics, ethics and politics of improvisation. He is also currently working on a critical edition of the manuscripts of Zalman Gradowski. Gradowski was assigned to the Sonderkommando in Auschwitz—he managed to write one of the most singular and powerful accounts of the Shoah, from both an historical and a literary point of view, composed during the time of the events themselves. His manuscripts were buried under the ashes of Birkenau and discovered after the war. This edition (under contract with the University of Chicago Press) will be the first complete critical edition in English. Davidson's main publications are in French, Italian and Spanish as well as in English.

Fred M. Donner

Peter B. Ritzma Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, the Oriental Institute, and the College; 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 was President of the Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA) in 2012. In 2012 he was appointed a life member of the Scientific Council of the Tunisian Academy of Sciences, Letters, and Arts “Beit al-Hikma.” His teaching focuses on early Islamic history, Islamic social history, Arabic palaeography and epigraphy, and aspects of Islamic law.
Alireza Doostdar

**Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies and the Anthropology of Religion; also in the College**

*Ph.D., Harvard University*

Alireza Doostdar’s research and teaching bring together anthropological approaches to the study of Islam, science, gender, embodiment, and the state. His first book, *The Iranian Metaphysicals: Explorations in Science, Islam, and the Uncanny* (Princeton University Press, 2018), examines the rationalization of the metaphysical “unseen” in Iran since the early twentieth century. Through ethnographic and historical analysis, it considers a range of knowledges and practices usually treated as marginal to orthodox Islam: sorcery and occult sciences, séances with the souls of the dead, jinn exorcisms, the marvels of Shi’i mystics, and various New Age-inflected therapeutic spiritualities. His other interests include the relationship between revolution and state in Iran, Iranian spiritual cinema and its engagements with Hollywood sci-fi, fantasy, and horror, and debates over the Islamization of the social sciences.

Ahmed El Shamsy

**Associate 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 the evolution of the classical Islamic disciplines and scholarly culture within their broader historical context. His research addresses themes such as orality and literacy, the history of the book, and the theory and practice of Islamic law. His first book, *The Canonization of Islamic Law: A Social and Intellectual History*, traces the transformation of Islamic law from a primarily oral tradition to a systematic written discipline in the eighth and ninth centuries. 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 interplay of Islam with other religious and philosophical traditions, for example by exploring the influence of the Greek sage Galen on Islamic thought and the construction of a distinct self-identity among early Muslims. He teaches courses on all aspects of classical Islamic thought.
Jas’ Elsner

Visiting Professor of Art and Religion; Associate Faculty, Department of Art History

Ph.D., King’s College Cambridge

Jas’ Elsner studied Classics and Art History at Cambridge, Harvard and London, receiving his doctorate from King’s College Cambridge.

His main research interest is in the art of the Roman empire, broadly conceived to include late antiquity and the early middle ages and including Byzantium as well as the pre-Christian Classical world. His research began by looking at the way art was viewed in antiquity, which led to an interest in all kinds of reception from ritual and pilgrimage in the case of religious art to the literary description of art (including the rhetorical technique known as ekphrasis) to the more recent collecting and display of art as well as its modern historiography and receptions. He has been a foreign honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences since 2009 and was a Kosmos Fellow in Globalized Classics at the Humboldt University in Berlin 2015–16. Since the art of antiquity has such a privileged, indeed canonical, position in our culture, the study of its receptions is an exploration of more recent history’s varied, competing and often ideologically charged understandings of its own past.

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Prof. Elsner has held visiting attachments at the British School at Rome, the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris, the Institute for the Humanities at the University of Michigan, UCLA, the Institute of Fine Art in New York and Princeton University. He serves on the editorial boards of a number of Journals around the world and is the joint editor of two monograph series, Greek Culture in the Roman World, with the Cambridge University Press and Ashgate Studies in Pilgrimage. He has been a foreign honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a Fellow of the British Academy since 2017, and was a Kosmos Fellow in Globalized Classics at the Humboldt University in Berlin, 2015–16. Since 2013 he has been Principal Investigator on the Empires of Faith Project between the British Museum and Wolfson College, Oxford, exploring the visual cultures of the world religions in the Mediterranean and Asia between 200 and 800 AD.
Curtis J. Evans

Associate 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, primarily with expertise in cultural and religious changes in the US since the Civil War. He is particularly interested in teaching about developments in religion and race over the course of the 20th century and the various ways in which religious communities interpret and seek to influence or restrain social changes. His research focuses on interpretations of African American religion, debates about the role of churches in the modern world, especially as they have addressed issues such as segregation, race, and gender, and the evolution of the place of conservative and liberal Protestants in the social order since the late 19th century. His first book, *The Burden of Black Religion* (Oxford, 2008) is a critical historical analysis of debates over the role of African American religion within black communities and within the nation. It is also a genealogy of the emergence of the category of “the black church,” which, he argues, was a way of understanding and prescribing how very diverse and varied African American religious communities should function in society. His second book, *A Theology of Brotherhood: The Federal Council of Churches and the Problem of Race* (Oxford, forthcoming), examines the history of the Federal Council of Churches’ (an ecumenical Protestant federation of denominations founded in 1908) Department of Race Relations from the 1920s to the 1940s. He looks at various projects such as the FCC’s anti-lynching campaign and its annual Race Relations Sundays to understand how this group of ecumenical Protestants understood the problem of race and to assess how they sought to realize concretely their theology of brotherhood that broke from a dominant theology of segregation, which had argued that the separation of the races was a part of the natural divine order. Some of his more recent interests have moved in the direction of the evolution of evangelical Protestantism and developments within conservative Protestant Christian communities.

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; also in 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 rabbincis, 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 recently published a multileveled comprehensive commentary presenting the full range of Jewish interpretations on the Song of Songs (Jewish Publication Society, 2015). A volume on him and his work will soon appear as Michael Fishbane. Jewish Hermeneutical Theology in the Library of Contemporary Jewish Philosophers (Brill, 2015). Fishbane is now working on the poetics of Jewish liturgical poetry and a new work in contemporary theology. 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.
Sarah E. Fredericks

**Assistant Professor of Environmental Ethics; Director of Graduate Studies**

*Ph.D., Boston University*

Professor Fredericks’ research focuses on sustainability, sustainable energy, environmental guilt and shame, and environmental justice; her work draws upon pragmatic and comparative religious ethics.

She is the author of *Measuring and Evaluating Sustainability: Ethics in Sustainability Indexes* (Routledge, 2013), and articles in *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture; International Journal of Sustainable Development and World Ecology; Environmental Justice,* and *Ethics, Policy, and Environment*. Fredericks co-edits a book series, Religious Ethics and Environmental Challenges (Lexington Press), with Kevin O’Brien. Fredericks, along with colleagues from three other university, was recently awarded a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation-funded Humanities Without Walls, a consortium that funds cross-institutional teams researching topics in the humanities. Prof. Fredericks’ project, “Being Human in the Age of Humans: Perspectives from Religion and Ethics,” seeks to better understand the impact of climate change from a humanities perspective.

Prior to joining the Divinity School Professor Fredericks was Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion at the University of North Texas. She holds a Ph.D. in Science, Philosophy and Religion from Boston University.

Professor Fredericks is currently working on a book about the ethical dimensions of experiencing and inducing environmental guilt and shame, particularly about climate change.
Franklin I. Gamwell

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; 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 Review of Metaphysics, 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 Universalism vs. Relativism and Schleiermacher and Transcendental Philosophy.

His most recent work is Religion Among We the People: Conversations on Democracy and the Divine Good (2015).

Professor Gamwell is an ordained Presbyterian minister.

Sarah Hammerschlag

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) and Broken Tablets: Levinas, Derrida and the Literary Afterlife of Religion (Columbia University Press, 2016) and the editor of the volume Modern French Jewish Thought: Writings on Religion and Politics (Brandeis University Press, 2018). The Figural Jew received an Honorable Mention for the 2012 Jordan Schnitzer Book Award, given by the Association of Jewish Scholars, and was a finalist for the AAR's Best First Book in the History of Religions in 2011. 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 a manuscript entitled “Sowers and Sages: The Renaissance of Judaism in Postwar Paris.”
Kevin Hector

Associate Professor of Theology and of the Philosophy of Religions

M.A., Wheaton College
Ph.D., Princeton Seminary

Kevin Hector’s teaching and research are devoted largely to interpretive questions, particularly
(a) how best to understand faith commitments, and (b) how the outworking of such commitments
can shed light on broader cultural issues.

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 shoehorns 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.

In his second book, *The Theological Project of Modernism: Faith and the Conditions of Mineness*
(Oxford University Press, 2015), Hector explores the idea of ‘mineness,’ in the sense of being able to
identify with one’s life or experience it as self-expressive, by tracing the development of this idea in
modern theology. He argues, accordingly, that theologians such as Kant, Schleiermacher, Hegel,
Ritschl, Troeltsch, and Tillich offer accounts of how one’s life would have to hang together such that
one could identify with it; of the oppositions (e.g., injustice, tragedy, luck) which stand in the way of
such hanging-together; of God as the one by whom oppositions are overcome, so that one can
have faith that one’s life ultimately won’t fall apart; and of what such faith would have to be like in
order for one to identify with it.

Angie Heo

Assistant Professor of the Anthropology and Sociology of Religion;
also in the College

M.A., Ph.D., University of California at Berkeley

Angie Heo is an anthropologist of religion, media, and economy. Her research and teaching
at the Divinity School covers a range of topics related to the critical study of global Christianities
in the modern world. These topics explore the intersection of everyday religious practices
with colonial and national institutions of rule, along with political economies of development
and globalization.
Heo’s first book *The Political Lives of Saints: Christian-Muslim Mediation in Egypt* (University of California Press, 2018) is an ethnography of Coptic Orthodoxy and Christian-Muslim relations. Her research is attentive to the interplay between material aesthetics, religious mediation and national-sectarian politics. Heo’s second book project turns to Evangelical Protestantism and Cold War capitalism in the Korean peninsula. Her ongoing research further examines the transnational consolidation of religious and market freedoms throughout the Pacific Rim.

**Dwight N. Hopkins**

*Alexander Campbell Professor of Theology; also in the College*

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

Dwight N. Hopkins is the Alexander Campbell Professor. He graduated from Groton (Boarding) School and Harvard University (B.A.). Professor Hopkins initiated and managed a 14-country network to think about the practices of building healthy communities and healthy individuals in communities. With representatives from Hawaii, Fiji, Australia, Japan, India, England, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Botswana, South Africa, Cuba, Jamaica, Brazil, and the USA, the network forged learning about neighbors through neighbors sharing their cultures. Indeed, in international transactions of business, politics, and religions, one of the greatest challenges is lack of cultural understanding. Restated, cultures facilitate harmony and balance for the purpose of another world is possible in emerging markets. A higher vision and transcendent values glue the global together spiritually with wealth management.

He was Visiting Professor at Renmin (People’s) University, Beijing, China. (Course on “The History of Western Civilization”) and Visiting Lecturer at Dongbei University of Finance and Economics, Surrey International Institute, Dalian, China (ten lectures on “China and the West: Cross Cultural Communication”).

Prof. Hopkins is a constructive theologian working in the areas of contemporary models of theology, various forms of liberation theologies, and East-West cross-cultural comparisons. Professor Hopkins is interested in multidisciplinary approaches to the academic study of religious thought, especially cultural, political, economic, and interpretive methods.
Jeff Jay
Lecturer in New Testament and Early Christian Literature
M.A., Ph.D., University of Chicago

Jeff Jay’s teaching and research focus on early Jewish and Christian literature in their original languages and especially in terms of their context in Second Temple Judaism and Greek and Roman literature, religion, and philosophy. His interests also extend to the history of Biblical interpretation, the history of religions, religion and literature, and philosophical hermeneutics. Professor Jay is the author of The Tragic in Mark (HUTh 66; Mohr Siebeck, 2014). He has also published articles and entries in the Journal of Early Christian Studies; Journal for the Study of Judaism; Contexticon of New Testament Language, and Feasting on the Gospels—Luke, Vol. 1. His current writing and research focus on the Gospel of Mark, as well as love, eros, sex, and beauty in Paul and John.

Matthew Kapstein
Numata Visiting Professor of the Philosophy of Religions and the History of Religions
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. Kapstein was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2018.
James Ketelaar

Professor of History and East Asian Languages and Civilizations; Director of the Center for East Asian Studies; Associate Faculty

Ph.D., University of Chicago

James Ketelaar works on the intellectual, cultural and religious history of Japan. His current book project looks at the roles and meanings of emotion in Japanese historical imaginations. Chapters on imagining erotic emotionality in the Edo period and the relation between mantrayana practices and the popular representation of erotic love have been completed. Subsequent work will look at issues ranging from the relationship of the creator gods Izanami and Izanagi to the emotive powers of the deaths of Christian martyrs.

Professor Ketelaar is past Chair of the Executive Committee for the Inter-University Center of Yokohama (a consortial program for the advanced study of Japanese language and culture), Executive Committee member and Director of the Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies, and Director of the Center for East Asian Studies at the University of Chicago. His publications include Of Heretics and Martyrs in Meiji Japan: Buddhism and its Persecution (Princeton: 1989), winner of the Hans Rosenhaupt Memorial Award. Values, Identity and Equality in 18th and 19th century Japan (Brill, 2015), co-edited with Peter Nosco and Kojima Yasunori, contains an introductory essay and a chapter by Ketelaar. This latter chapter, “Searching for Erotic Emotionality in Tokugawa Japan” is the first published study for the book length project on emotion and history. Both books, in edited versions with new introductions, have also appeared in Japanese editions.
Karin Krause

Assistant Professor of Byzantine Theology and Visual Culture; Affiliated Faculty, Department of Art History; Faculty Member in the Program in Medieval Studies

M.A., University of Bonn
Ph.D., University of Munich, LMU

Karin Krause is an art historian who specializes in the Christian visual culture of Byzantium and the pre-modern Mediterranean.

Her first book, *The Illustrated Homilies of John Chrysostom in Byzantium*, published in German, won an award from the Southeast Europe Association (Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft). Making available for the first time many of the illuminated manuscripts that contain the teachings of Byzantium’s preeminent theologian, it reconstructs the circumstances of their production and their relevance for the liturgy. Krause is currently completing a second book with the working title *Images of Inspiration: Art, Authenticity, and the Sacred in Byzantium*. It explores claims about the divine origin of sacred texts and material artifacts, claims that are manifest in both theological writings and visual images. Analyzing how their underlying notions of authenticity were adapted from Greco-Roman and Jewish antiquity, the study also shows how Byzantine thinkers reinterpreted ancient epistemic theories of truth in order to promulgate claims of religious orthodoxy and authority. Krause’s third monograph, tentatively titled *Propaganda, Cult, Scholarship: The Response to Byzantine Artifacts in Venice* is far advanced, and builds on her previous publications on the impact of Byzantine culture on medieval and early modern Italy. Karin Krause’s research has been supported by the German Research Community (DFG), the Max Planck Society, Dumbarton Oaks, the Gerda Henkel Foundation, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and others.

In her teaching at the Divinity School, Professor Krause seeks to broaden the concept of religion by drawing attention to the significance of material artifacts alongside texts and theories. She welcomes projects that explore the role of visual culture in religion and helps students develop the skills to address artifacts as primary evidence. A complete list of Professor Krause’s course offerings, an academic bio, and select publications can be found at academia.edu.

Aden Kumler

Associate Professor of of Art History and of Romance Languages & Literatures; Associate Faculty

M.A., University of Toronto
Ph.D., Harvard University

Aden Kumler is an Associate Professor of Art History and of Romance Languages & Literatures at the University of Chicago. In broad terms, her research and teaching focus on the imbrication of art, material culture, and religion in European medieval culture. Her research has been

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, Baha’i Studies, modern Middle Eastern literature and cinema, and translation history. He is the current Chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, the past President of the American Institute of Iranian Studies, and runs the discussion list Adabiyat for Persian, Arabic, Turkish and Urdu literatures.

Lewis’ research interests include Persian and Arabic literature, particularly of the Samanid to Timurid period, as well as twentieth-century poetry and prose (from the perspective of performance, genre studies, semiotics, sociology of literary production, narratology, hermeneutics, homiletics, codicology and editorial theory); and mystical and esoteric traditions in the Islamicate world (including Sufi, Shi’i and Baha’i thought and theology). His publications include several translations of modern Persian prose and poetry, studies of Hâfez, ‘Attâr, Sa’di, Najm al-Din Dâye, Sanâ’i, Persian literature and the Qur’ân, the Sufi orders, the hagiographical tradition, and the writings of Bahâ’ 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.
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 thirty years. Teaching and research interests include questions of contemporary ministerial identity and formation, multi-religious theological education, the practice and ethics of preaching and pastoral care in multicultural society, the role of religious communities in addressing communal violence and trauma, and the interface of corporate worship and public witness, and its impact on identity formation and congregational life. She is one of the directors of the Divinity School’s Chicago Commons Project, an early-career pastoral leadership development program funded by the Lilly Endowment.

Lindner explores pastoral multiple-mindedness in her book Varieties of Gifts: Multiplicity and the Well-Lived Pastoral Life, published in 2016 by Rowman and Littlefield, and is currently developing two new research projects: one on the narrative experience of congregational life, and another on collaboration as pastoral practice.

Rev. Lindner is also a pastoral psychotherapist at the Center for Religion and Psychotherapy, where she conducts clergy groups and offers congregational consultation in addition to her work with individuals and couples. Rev. Lindner is a member of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors and the International Association for Spiritual Care.

Jean-Luc Marion

Andrew Thomas Greeley and Grace McNichols Greeley Professor of Catholic Studies and Professor of the Philosophy of Religions and Theology.

Professeur émérite at the Université Paris-IV (Sorbonne), Department of Philosophy.

Doctorat de IIIe cycle, Université Paris-IV, Sorbonne
Doctorat d’Etat, Université Paris-IV, Sorbonne

Jean-Luc Marion works at the intersection of contemporary phenomenology, the history of philosophy, and Christian theology. Many of his books are into 2nd, 3rd, and even 10th editions, and have been translated into several languages. In Reduction and Givenness, Being Given, In Excess, Givenness and Hermeneutics, and most recently Reprise du donné among other works, he has presented and developed a phenomenology of givenness. Elsewhere he has applied those results to a variety of special subjects such as painting (Courbet ou la peinture à l’œil), love (Prolegomena to Charity and The Erotic Phenomenon), and certitude (Negative Certainty). In more directly historical work Marion has published several studies reading philosophy through a
phenomenological lens, particularly Descartes. Full-length works include *Sur l’ontologie grise de Descartes, Sur la théologie blanche de Descartes, Descartes’ Metaphysical Prism*, and most recently *Sur la pensée passive de Descartes*. In theology and the history of Christian thought Marion wrote *The Idol and Distance* and *God Without Being* on the question of God and metaphysics, and more recently he has written books on Augustine (*In the Self’s Place*) and on the concept of revelation (*Givenness and Revelation*). He has also worked in Greek and Latin patristics and in medieval thought. His most recent title is *Brève apologie pour un moment catholique*. In 2017 a collection of short pieces and a collection of interviews with Dan Arbib was published in translation (*Believing in Order to See* and *The Rigor of Things*).

Marion is a member of the Académie Française (elected 2008, received as an *immortel* in 2010), the Accademia dei Lincei in Rome (2009), the Pontifical Council on Culture (2011), and the Academia Chilena de Ciencias Sociales, Politicas y Morales (2015). He is the recipient of many awards, including the 1992 Grand Prix du Philosophie de l’Académie Française, the 2008 Karl-Jaspers Prize of the city and University of Heidelberg, and the 2012 Humboldt-Stiftung Prize. Marion has also received nine honorary doctorates, most recently from the Australian Catholic University, Melbourne (2015). The same year he was elected Chevalier du Tastevin, Clos-Vougeot in Burgundy. Previously he was professeur at the Institut Catholique de Paris and directeur of the Centre d’Etudes Cartésiennes, and in 2014 he was selected to give the Gifford Lectures at the University of Scotland, Glasgow (now published as *Givenness and Revelation*). In 2018 Marion was a visiting professor at the Universität Regensburg.

David Martinez

Associate Professor, Department of Classics and the Divinity School; also in 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.”
William T.S. Mazzarella

Department Chair, Neukom Family Professor of Anthropology and of Social Sciences in the College; Associate Faculty

Ph.D., University of California Berkeley

Prof. Mazzarella writes and teaches on the political anthropology of mass publicity, with special reference to India. His books include *Shoveling Smoke: Advertising and Globalization in Contemporary India* (Duke, 2003) and *Censorium: Cinema and the Open Edge of Mass Publicity* (Duke, 2013). He is also the co-editor, with Raminder Kaur, of *Censorship in South Asia: Cultural Regulation from Sedition to Seduction* (Indiana, 2009), and the editor of *K D Katrak: Collected Poems* (Poetrywala, 2016). His recently completed book, *The Mana of Mass Society* (Chicago, 2017), brings classic anthropological writings on magical efficacy and charismatic agency into conversation with critical-theoretical takes on marketing, aesthetics, and the commodity image.

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


Her latest book, *Through a Lens, Darkly: Imaging Germany 1945* concerns the bombing of German civilians during the Second World War. It raises the question of human suffering, and is based on a series of unpublished photographs of the 1945 ruins of German cities. The book will come out next year with 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, Dusseldorf, Germany. He has recently published Progress and its Discontents (in Hebrew); the third, enlarged edition of The Jew in the Modern World: 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, as well as the collected works of Martin Buber in German, which has published two volumes in the past year. His biography of Martin Buber is soon to be published by Yale University Press. He has recently published several edited volumes: Gustav Landauer. Anarchist and Jew (Munich: Walter de Gruyter Verlag, 2014); Dialogue as a Trans-Disciplinary Concept (Berlin; Walter de Gruyter Verlag, 2015); and, in Hebrew (with Avihu Zakai), Fields in the Wind: A Tribute to Avraham Shapira in Friendship and Appreciation (Jerusalem: Carmel Publishers, 2015) as well as (with San Berinn Sohnkoff), Special Centenary Buber issue, Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy 2017; (with Michael A. Fishbane) Martin Buber: Symposium. Journal of Religion (in press); (also with Michael A. Fishbane), Martin Buber Werkausgabe, vol. 20: Schriften zum Judentum (Güterslohr, 2018) and (with Rachel Freudenthal) Wissenschaft des Judentum. History and New Horizons (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter Verlag, 2017).

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 Brothers 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.
Richard B. Miller

Laura Spelman Rockefeller Professor of Religious Ethics
Ph.D., University of Chicago


Miller’s courses include “Contemporary Religious Ethics I & II”, a two-quarter sequence that provides students with a foundational overview of critical works in religious ethics from 1970-present. He also teaches a mini-curriculum of three courses on religion and politics: “Contemporary Political and Social Ethics,” “Religion and Democracy,” and “Rights and Justice.” Other courses include “The Problem of Love in Augustine and Kierkegaard,” “The Ethics of War: Foundational Texts,” “Religion, Ethics, and Medicine,” and “Religion and the Political Order.” A relentlessly self-reflexive teacher, Miller has designed all of his courses with an underlying thesis that situates course readings within a historical and intellectual arc.

With his faculty colleagues in Religious Ethics, Miller has launched a new initiative at the Divinity School—a two-year cycle of readings, “Minor Classics in Ethics,” focusing on recent essays in moral philosophy, social thought, political theory, and theological ethics that have revitalized forgotten themes or have posed new and complicated questions for religious ethicists to take up.
Elham Mireshghi

Lecturer in the Divinity School; also in the College

Ph.D., University of California, Irvine

Elham Mireshghi is a cultural anthropologist. Her research and teaching expertise spans the anthropology of public policy, medical anthropology, economic anthropology, and the anthropology of morality, bioethics, and Islamic law, with a regional focus on Iran and the larger Middle East. She earned her doctorate from the University of California at Irvine after completing a B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (University of California, Berkeley) and a brief foray in intellectual property law.

Her ethnographic research investigates the making and implementation of Iran’s one-of-a-kind organ transplantation policy that regulates monetary transactions between living unrelated kidney donors and recipients. She examines the formation of fatwas that facilitated the policy, as well as enactments and moral valuations of the exchange that challenge widespread conceptualizations of bodily commodification. Her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the Wenner Gren Foundation, and the Charlotte Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship on Religion and Ethics from the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation.

At UChicago she teaches a “Self, Culture, and Society” sequence in the Social Sciences Collegiate Division as well as graduate courses in anthropology and the Divinity School. Her previous courses have included “Islam and Biomedicine,” “Islam, Welfare, and Neoliberalism,” “Anthropology of Public Policy,” and “Bodies, Gifts, and Commodities.”
Margaret M. Mitchell

Shailer Mathews Distinguished Service Professor of New Testament and Early Christian Literature; also in the College

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’s research has been supported by grants and fellowships from the Luce, Mellon and Guggenheim foundations. She is an elected member of Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas, l’Association internationale d’études patristiques, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
David Nirenberg

Dean of The Divinity School and the Deborah R. and Edgar D. Jannotta Distinguished Service Professor, Committee on Social Thought, Department of History, The Divinity School, the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Center for Jewish Studies, and the College; Executive Vice Provost, University of Chicago

Ph.D., Princeton University

Much of David Nirenberg’s work has focused on the ways in which Jewish, Christian, and Islamic cultures constitute themselves by interrelating with or thinking about each other. His first book, Communities of Violence: Persecution of Minorities in the Middle Ages, studied social interaction between the three groups within the context of Spain and France in order to understand the role of violence in shaping the possibilities for coexistence. In later projects he took a less social and more hermeneutical approach, exploring the work that “Judaism,” “Christianity,” and “Islam” do as figures in each other’s thought about the nature of language and the world. One product of that approach, focused on art history, was (jointly with Herb Kessler) Judaism and Christian Art: Aesthetic Anxieties from the Catacombs to Colonialism (2011). In Anti-Judaism: The Western Tradition (2013), Nirenberg attempted to apply the methodology to a very longue durée, studying the work done by pagan, Christian, Muslim, and secular thinking about Jews and Judaism in the history of ideas. More recently, in Neighboring Faiths: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism Medieval and Modern (2014), he brought the social into conversation with the hermeneutic, in order to show how, in multireligious societies (with focus, as it often is, on Spain), lived experiences of interreligious contact interact with conceptual categories and habits of thought, and how this interaction shapes how adherents of all three religions perceive themselves and each other.

Nirenberg’s work on these three religious traditions ranges across literary, artistic, historiographic, and philosophical genres. But even more generally, his interest seems to be in the history of how the possibilities and limits of community and communication have been imagined. That was the goal of his most recent book, Aesthetic Theology and Its Enemies: Judaism in Christian Painting, Poetry, and Politics (2015). And it has also been the goal of his engagement in contemporary debates about how the possibility of overcoming those limits has been fantasized in contemporary politics and philosophy, such as in his essays in the New Republic on the encyclicals of Pope Benedict XVI, or pieces in Critical Inquiry (“Politics of Love and Its Enemies” and “Badiou’s Number: a Critique of Mathematics as Ontology,” the latter with Ricardo Nirenberg). In order to explore these more general questions Nirenberg is engaged in two long-term thematic projects: the first, a history of love’s central place in a number of ancient, medieval, and modern idealizations of communication and exchange, and the second, a parallel study of poison as a representation of communication’s dangers. Nirenberg is collaborating with a mathematician (Ricardo Nirenberg) on a book exploring the various types of sameness that underpin the relative claims of different forms of knowledge, in the hope of discovering new ways of understanding both the powers and the limits of the sciences and the humanities.
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; Board Member, Human Rights Program; Associate Faculty

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

Martha C. Nussbaum has taught at Harvard, Brown, and Oxford Universities. From 1986 to 1993 Nussbaum was a research advisor at the World Institute for Development Economics Research, Helsinki, a part of the United Nations University. She has chaired the American Philosophical Association’s Committee on International Cooperation, the Committee on the Status of Women, and the Committee for Public Philosophy. From 1999 to 2000, she was one of three Presidents of the Association, delivering the Presidential Address, Central Division. She has received honorary degrees from sixty colleges and universities in the US, Canada, Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Europe, including Lawrence University, Williams College, the Universities of Athens, St. Andrews, Edinburgh, Toronto, and Haifa, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, the Ecole Normale Supérieure, Emory University, the University of Bielefeld, Ohio State and Georgetown Universities, the Universities of the Free State and of Jyväskylä, and the Universidad Iberoamericana. She is an Academician in the Academy of Finland, a Fellow of the British Academy, and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society. Among her awards are the Grawemeyer Award in Education (2002), the University of Chicago Faculty Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching (2001), the Centennial Medal of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University (2010), the Prince of Asturias Prize in the Social Sciences (2012), the American Philosophical Association’s Philip Quinn Prize (2015), the Kyoto Prize in Arts and Philosophy (2016), and the Don M. Randel Prize for Achievement in the Humanities from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2018).

Willemien Otten

Professor of Theology and of the History of Christianity; also in the College; Associate Faculty in the Department of History; Director of the Martin Marty Center for the Public Understanding of Religion

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

Willemien Otten studies the history of Christianity and Christian thought with a focus on the medieval and the early Christian intellectual tradition, especially in the West, and an emphasis on the continuity of Platonic themes. She has worked on the Carolingian thinker Johannes Scottus Eriugena and on twelfth-century humanistic thinkers including Peter Abelard. Her preferred approach is to analyze (early) medieval thought and theology as an amalgam of biblical, classical, and patristic influences which, woven together, constitute their own intellectual matrix. Within this matrix the place and role of nature and humanity interest her most.


Seeing theological questions embedded in broader historical and interdisciplinary study, even as she pursues her interest in medieval history and culture, Otten currently deals with ideas of nature and self, linking, among others, Eriugena and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Willemien Otten was named a 2015–2016 Luce Fellow by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS) and The Henry Luce Foundation, Inc. for a book-length project entitled “Natura Educans: The Psychology of Pantheism from Eriugena to Emerson.” In winter 2017 Otten was invited to be visiting distinguished Tipton professor of Catholic studies in the department of religious studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She is currently completing the manuscript related to her nature-project.

Willemien Otten is director of the Martin Marty Center for the Public Understanding of Religion.
Aasim Padela

Director of the Program on Medicine and Religion; Director of the Initiative on Islam and Medicine; Associate Professor, Section of Emergency Medicine; Faculty, Maclean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics; Associate Faculty

M.D., M.Sc., Weill Medical College of Cornell University

Dr. Padela is a clinician-researcher and bioethicist whose scholarship lies at the intersection of community health and religion. He utilizes diverse methodologies from health services research, religious studies, and comparative ethics to examine the encounter of Islam with contemporary biomedicine through the lives of Muslim patients and clinicians, and in the scholarly writings of Islamic authorities. Through systematic research and strategic interventions, he seeks (1) to improve American Muslim health outcomes and healthcare experiences, and (2) to construct a multidisciplinary field of Islamic bioethics.

Dr. Padela’s empirical work examines how religious beliefs, values and identity impact American Muslim health behaviors and healthcare experiences. This knowledge is then mobilized towards the design of religiously-tailored, community-based healthcare interventions and hospital-based policy accommodations. He also charts out the ways in which Islam impacts the bioethical attitudes and workplace experiences of Muslim clinicians.

Dr. Padela’s normative work focuses on analyzing in the moral reasoning and conceptual knowledge deployed by Islamic scholars to assess modern biomedicine. His interest lies in how scientific data and ways of knowing can inform and work in concert with traditional Islamic moral, epistemic and ontological frameworks. In this area he collaborates with Islamic studies scholars and institutes around the world.

The Initiative on Islam and Medicine (II&M) houses Dr. Padela’s scholastic forays.

Dr. Padela teaches courses on religious bioethics, religion and medicine, and Islamic bioethics, and the II&M convenes multidisciplinary symposia, workshops, and conferences focused on Islam and biomedicine, students are encouraged to reach out to participate.
Stephan Palmié

Professor of Anthropology and of Social Sciences in the College; Associated Faculty

_D.Phil, Habilitation, UMunich_

Professor Palmié conducts ethnographic and historical research on Afro-Caribbean cultures, with an emphasis on Afro-Cuban religious formations and their relations to the history and cultures of a wider Atlantic world. His other interests include practices of historical representation and knowledge production, systems of slavery and unfree labor, constructions of race and ethnicity, conceptions of embodiment and moral personhood, science and technology studies, and the anthropology of food and cuisine.

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. Her teaching includes topics in Islamic thought and literature, classical Arabic prose, poetry and poetics, and classical Arabic syntax. She is an Editorial Board Member of the NYU Press series Library of Arabic Literature.


Professor Qutbuddin’s latest volume is titled _Light in the Heavens: Sayings of the Prophet Muhammad_, a critical edition and translation of al-Quda’i’s _Kitab al-Shihab_ (Library of Arabic Literature, NYU Press, 2016). A monograph project is titled _Classical Arabic Oratory: Religion, Politics and Orality-Based Aesthetics of Public Address in the Early Islamic World_, for which she was awarded fellowships by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the American Council of Learned Societies. She is also working on an edition and translation of al-Radi’s compilation of Ali’s sermons titled _Path of Eloquence (Nahj al-balaghah)_.
James T. Robinson

Caroline E. Haskell Professor of the History of Judaism, Islamic Studies, and the History of Religions; Professor of the History of Judaism, Islamic Studies, and the History of Religions; also in the Program on Medieval Studies, Religious Studies, Fundamentals: Texts and Issues, and the Center for Jewish Studies; Associate Faculty in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

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.


Courses Prof. Robinson has taught include: Jewish Philosophy in the Middle Ages; Medieval Commentaries on Ecclesiastes; 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; A Medieval Menagerie: 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 Hayy ibn Yaqzan; Islamic and Jewish Neoplatonism; Maimonides as Mystic (A study of Guide 3:51); Comparative Scriptural Interpretation (with Margaret M. Mitchell); Maimonides, Eight Chapters and Commentary on Avot; Medieval Commentaries on Psalms; Introduction to Judaeo-Arabic Literature and Thought; Aristotle in the Middle Ages; Jewish Sufism; The Bible in Arabic; Maimonides on the Problem of Evil (a study of Guide 3:8-12); Arabic Religious Texts (with Michael Sells); The Occult in the Islamic World (with Alireza Doostdar).
Na’ama Rokem

Associate Professor of Modern Hebrew Literature & Comparative Literature; Associate Faculty

Ph.D., Stanford University

Na’ama Rokem works on Modern Hebrew and German-Jewish literature. Her first book, *Prosaic Conditions: Heinrich Heine and Spaces of Zionist Literature* (Northwestern University Press, 2013) argues that prose—as a figure of thought, a mode and a medium—played an instrumental role in the literary foundations of the Zionist revolution. She is now writing a book about the encounter between Paul Celan and Yehuda Amichai, as well as articles on multilingualism and translation in the works of Hannah Arendt and Leah Goldberg, on the politics of translation in Israel. With Amir Eshel, she coedited a special issue of *Prooftexts, on German-Hebrew relations*. She teaches a variety of courses including Advanced Readings in Hebrew, The Bible in Modern Hebrew Literature, Multilingualism in Modern Jewish Literature, Writing the Jewish State, and Readings in World Literature.

Richard A. Rosengarten

Associate Professor of Religion and Literature; also in the College

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

Richard Rosengarten studies Enlightenment thought and its import for religious (especially Christian) thought and practice. His teaching and research focus on how modern literary forms (especially the novel, but also satire and autobiography) enact, absorb, engage, and transform that impact, and on how the work of “criticism”—in its literary, biblical, and philosophical expressions—comes to have exponential import for thought and culture. Understanding religious thought and practice from the perspective of the Enlightenment inevitably involves engagement of earlier thought (especially the ancients) as well as the history of its effects (“modernism” and its aftermaths). His book on the novelist Henry Fielding is thus framed by engagements with Augustine’s *Confessions* and Faulkner’s *Absalom, Absalom!*, and his forthcoming book on Catholicism between the Vatican Councils compares the ways that Flannery O’Connor, Frida Kahlo, and Simone Weil engaged Roman Catholic sacramental theology as crucial to the formation of their artistic styles (in prose fiction, retablo, and essai, respectively) for modernity.

Rosengarten has made a significant commitment to administrative work in his professional life, including, in the Divinity School, serving as Dean of Students (1991–2000) and as Dean (2000–2010, 2015–17). He has been active as an accreditor for the Association of Theological Schools and as Secretary (1995–1998) and then Vice Chair and Chair (1999–2005) of the Council on the Graduate Study of Religion.
Eric L. Santner

Philip and Ida Romberg Distinguished Service Professor in Modern Germanic Studies, Professor of Germanic Studies, Committee on Jewish Studies, and the College; Chair of the Department of Germanic Studies; Associate Faculty

M.A., Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin

Eric Santner works at the intersection of literature, philosophy, psychoanalysis, political theory, and religious thought. His books include: Friedrich Hölderlin: Narrative Vigilance and the Poetic Imagination; Stranded Objects: Mourning, Memory, and Film in Postwar Germany; My Own Private Germany: Daniel Paul Schreber’s Secret History of Modernity; On the Psychotheology of Everyday Life: Reflections on Freud and Rosenzweig; On Creaturely Life: Rilke, Benjamin, Sebald; The Neighbor: Three Inquiries in Political Theology (with Slavoj Zizek and Kenneth Reinhard); The Royal Remains: The People’s Two Bodies and the Endgames of Sovereignty. He edited the German Library Series volume of works by Friedrich Hölderlin and co-edited with Moishe Postone, Catastrophe and Meaning: The Holocaust and the Twentieth Century. His work has been translated into German, Spanish, French, Korean, Hebrew, Polish, Italian, and Portuguese. Eric Santner delivered the Tanner Lectures in Human Values at UC Berkeley in the spring of 2014; they appeared in 2015 with Oxford University Press under the title, The Weight of All Flesh: On the Subject-Matter of Political Theology.
J. David Schloen

Professor of Near Eastern 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) from ca. 3000 to 300 BCE. He has a longstanding interest in Canaanite and Israelite religion and culture, and the relevant biblical and archaeological evidence, which emerges in a book he is currently writing on The Bible and Archaeology: Exploring the History and Mythology of Ancient Israel. He directs archaeological excavations in Israel and Turkey, in which Divinity School students are welcome and have regularly participated—especially in the work at a Canaanite and Phoenician site called Tell Keisan, near Haifa (http://keisan.uchicago.edu). In addition to research and publications related to these excavations, Schloen has a general interest in understanding economy and society in the ancient Mediterranean and Middle East. He is especially concerned with the interaction between mundane social and economic practices, of the kind studied by archaeologists, and the symbols and metaphors of social order evident in ancient iconographic and textual sources such as the Bible—symbols which both shaped, and were shaped by, those practices. His book on The House of the Father as Fact and Symbol is an effort in this direction and he is working on a companion volume that examines the sweeping economic and ideological changes of the “Axial Age” in the first millennium BCE, in ancient Israel and elsewhere, as patrimonial royal economies gave way to the vast empires of the Persians, Greeks, and Romans.

Susan Schreiner

Professor of the History of Christianity and Theology; also in the College

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 as well as Idolatry: Historical and Contemporary analyses of the concept of idolatry; Suffering and the Exegesis of the Book of Job and The Tragic Vision of Life. Professor Schreiner was a 2018 recipient of a Faculty Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Mentoring.

William Schweiker

Edward L. Ryerson Distinguished Service Professor of Theological Ethics; also in the College

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 or guest professor at universities around the world, he has been deeply involved in collaborative international scholarly 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); Dust that Breathes: Christian Faith and the New Humanisms (2010); and, forthcoming, Religious Ethics: Meaning and Method.

Professor Schweiker has published numerous articles and award-winning essays, as well as edited and contributed to eight volumes, including Humanity Before God: Contemporary Faces of Jewish, Christian and Islamic Ethics (2006) and 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 now chief editor and contributor to the three-volume Encyclopedia of Religious Ethics (forthcoming). He is also currently working on a forthcoming book with Wiley-Blackwell, titled Religious Ethics: Meaning and Method. Professor Schweiker’s present research and writing is a book titled Enhancing Life and the Forms of Freedom.

Professor Schweiker was awarded in 2014 an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Uppsala in Uppsala, Sweden. He was a Mercator Professor, Universität Heidelberg, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (2012-2013). He was the 2015–2016 President of the Society of Christian Ethics and the Director of The Enhancing Life Project (2014-2017), supported with a generous grant from the John Templeton Foundation. He is an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church.
Michael Sells

John Henry Barrows Professor of Islamic History and Literature; also in the Department of Comparative 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. His work on the Qur’an includes *Approaching the Qur’an: The Early Revelations* (2007) and *Qur’anic Studies Today* (2016), which he coedited and to which he contributed. He has published three volumes on Arabic poetry: *Desert Tracings: Six Classic Arabian Odes* (1989), which focuses upon the pre-Islamic period; *Stations of Desire* (2000), and *Bewildered* (2018), both of which focus upon the love poetry of Ibn `Arabi; and *The Cambridge History of Arabic Literature, Al-Andalus* (2000), which he coedited and to which he contributed. His work on mysticism includes *Early Islamic Mysticism* (1996), translations and commentaries on influential mystical passages from the Qur’an, hadith, Arabic poetry, and early Sufi writings; and *Mystical Languages of Unsaying* (1994), an examination of apophatic language, with special attention to Plotinus, John the Scot, Ibn `Arabi, Meister Eckhart, and Marguerite Porete. His work on religion and violence includes: *The Bridge Betrayed: Religion and Genocide in Bosnia* (1996); *The New Crusades: Constructing the Muslim Enemy* (2004), which he coedited and to which he contributed; “‘Armageddon’ in Christian, Sunni, and Shia traditions,” in the *Oxford Handbook of Religion and Violence* (2012); “Finhas of Medina: Islam, ‘the Jews’, and the Construction of Militancy,” in *Fighting Words: Religion, Violence, and the Interpretation of Sacred Texts*, ed. John Renard (2012); and “Holocaust Abuse: The Case of Muhammad Hajj Amin al-Husayni,” in the *Journal of Religious Ethics* (2015).
Eric Slauter

Associate Professor in the Department of English; Director, The Karla Scherer Center for the Study of American Culture; Associate Faculty

Ph.D., Stanford University

Prof. Slauter’s scholarship focuses chiefly on transformations in political thought and behavior in the eighteenth century. His first book, *The State as a Work of Art: The Cultural Origins of the Constitution*, examined the relation of culture to politics in revolutionary America, with a special interest in how the emergent state was challenged in its effort to sustain inalienable natural rights alongside slavery and to achieve political secularization at a moment of growing religious expression. In another book project, *Natural Rights: A Cultural History, 1689–1789*, he hopes to explain how and why ordinary people came to believe they had rights before and through the Revolution. Prof. Slauter specializes in early American cultural, intellectual, and literary history, with additional research and teaching interests in a range of fields and methods: legal history; the history of political thought; book history; visual and material culture studies; quantitative analysis; the history of slavery, abolition, and emancipation; labor history; environmental history; and Atlantic history.

Jeffrey Stackert

Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible; also in the College and the Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies; Associate Faculty in the Department of Classics and the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations; Director of MA Studies

*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.


Stackert is currently working on two monographs, one on Deuteronomy and its relationship to Pentateuch and the other on the biblical Priestly religious imagination. He is also coauthoring a commentary on the biblical book of Deuteronomy.

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 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. Currently, Wesley also serves as a volunteer chaplain at Cook County Jail, which has become a clinical field site for first year M.Divs.
Wesley’s interests in theology and storytelling are also expressed through creative writing and comics. Wesley co-founded Sun Bros Studios with his brother and is the co-author of their first graphic novel, *Chinatown* (2012), a surreal haunted house story that examines nihilism and the supernatural through the genre of magical realism. In 2014, the Sun Bros published *Monkey Fist*, an irreverent, postmodern retelling of the Monkey King stories from Chinese literature.

**Sofia Torallas-Tovar**

Professor of Classics and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations; Associate Faculty  
*Ph.D., Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain*

Prof. Torallas Tovar’s areas of specialization include Papyrology, Graeco-Roman and Late Antique Egypt, and sociolinguistics. Since 2002, she is the curator of the Papyrological collections at the Abadía de Montserrat and is author and coauthor of the four volumes of papyrological editions of the Montserrat papyri. She participates in international projects concerned with the edition of Coptic texts, such as those on the Gospel of Marc and the literary corpus of Shenoute of Atripe. Since 2009 she has collaborated with archaeological missions, like the Qubbet el Hawa (Aswan) Project of the University of Jaén and the Swiss Institute for Architectural and Archaeological Research in Cairo in editing the Syene ostraca. She is coeditor with Christopher Faraone of the project Transmission of Magical Knowledge, funded by the Neubauer Collegium (2015-2018), coordinating a team of scholars in the reedition of magical handbooks from Graeco-Roman Egypt.

**Jenny Trinitapoli**

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology; Associate Faculty  
*Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin*

Jenny Trinitapoli’s training and background is in two areas: social demography and the sociology of religion. Bridging these two fields, her work features the demographer’s characteristic concern with data and denominators and an insistence on connecting demographic processes to questions of meaning. Professor Trinitapoli has written extensively on the role of religion in the AIDS epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa, but religion permeates her research, even when it isn’t present as a variable. Since 2008 she have been the principal investigator of Tsogolo la Thanzi (TLT)—an ongoing longitudinal study of young adults in Malawi asking how TLT asks how young adults negotiate relationships, sex, and childbearing with a severe AIDS epidemic swirling around them.
Gary Tubb

Anupama and Guru Ramakrishnan Professor in the Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations; Associate Faculty

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

A wide-ranging Sanskrit scholar, Professor Tubb examines the tradition’s poetics, grammatical forms and commentarial traditions, and draws insights across the culture’s philosophy, religion and literature. His research interests include Sanskrit poetry and poetics; Sanskrit grammatical and commentarial traditions; the history of Vedanta philosophy; connections between philosophy, religion, and literature in Sanskrit culture; and the Mahabharata epic. Tubb is the author of Scholastic Sanskrit: A Handbook for Students. He is an editor and primary contributor in the book Innovations and Turning Points: Toward a History of Kavya Literature (Oxford University Press, Delhi). Another book, Remembrance and Identity in Sanskrit Texts, is also forthcoming from Oxford University Press.

Works in progress include an edition and translation of the Bhojaprabandha of Ballala, a sourcebook on Vedanta philosophy, and an annotated translation of Book 7 (the Drona Parva) of the Mahabharata, as part of the Chicago series of translations from the critical edition of the epic.

Christian K. Wedemeyer

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

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; antinomianism in the Indian esoteric traditions; canonicity, textual criticism, and strategies of legitimating authority in classical Tibetan scholasticism; and the semiology of esoteric Buddhist ritual.


His course offerings include Classical Theories of Religion, Contemporary Theories of Religion, Introduction to the Study of Religion, Indian Buddhism, Tibetan Buddhism, Mahayana Sutra Literature, Indian Tantrisms, Tibetan Auto/biography, Buddhism in the Americas, and Ritual in South Asian Buddhism.

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**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.
John E. Woods

Professor of Iranian and Central Asian History, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and the College; Associate Faculty

Ph.D., Princeton University

Professor Woods focuses primarily on the history of Turkey, Iran, and Central Asia from the thirteenth to eighteenth centuries. He is particularly interested in aspects of the encounter of sedentary and nomadic people in those regions during that time period. He is at present working on several projects dealing with the age of Chinggis Khan and Timur (Tamerlane). He has played a central role in the Center for Middle Eastern Studies since 1980.

Brook A. Ziporyn

Professor of Chinese Religion, Philosophy and Contemporary Thought

Ph.D., University of Michigan

Brook A. Ziporyn is a scholar of ancient and medieval Chinese religion and philosophy. 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 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). His seventh book, Emptiness and Omnipresence: The Lotus Sutra and Tiantai Buddhism, was published by Indiana University Press in 2016. 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.
Laurie Zoloth

Margaret E. Burton Professor of Religion and Ethics

M.A., California State University
M.A., Ph.D., Graduate Theological Union

Laurie Zoloth's scholarly interests focus on bioethics and Jewish studies, bringing together theoretical exploration with an understanding of how arguments of theology and moral philosophy can address societal challenges.

Zoloth’s research explores religion and ethics, drawing from sources ranging from Biblical and Talmudic texts to postmodern Jewish philosophy, including the writings of Emmanuel Levinas. Her scholarship spans the ethics of genetic engineering, stem cell research, synthetic biology, social justice in health care, and how science and medicine are taught. As a founding board member of the Society for Scriptural Reasoning, she also researches the practices of interreligious dialogue, exploring how religion plays a role in public discussion and policy.

Zoloth is author of Health Care and the Ethics of Encounter: A Jewish Discussion of Social Justice and co-editor of five books, including Notes from a Narrow Ridge: Religion and Bioethics and Jews and Genes: The Genetic Future in Contemporary Jewish Thought.

Zoloth has been the president of the American Academy of Religion and the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities. She was the inaugural director of the Jewish Studies program at San Francisco State University and director of graduate studies in religious studies at Northwestern. She is an elected member of the Hastings Center and a life member of Clare Hall, University of Cambridge.
Recent Faculty Awards and Honors

Dwight N. Hopkins is now the Alexander Campbell Professor of Theology.

The Divinity School and the Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago collaborated in the establishment of the Campbell chair, which recognizes the commitment of both institutions to the graduate study of religion in a fully ecumenical and interfaith academic context.

Matthew T. Kapstein has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, one of the nation’s most prestigious honorary societies.

James T. Robinson is now the Caroline E. Haskell Professor of the History of Judaism, Islamic Studies, and the History of Religions.

Margaret M. Mitchell has been named the Shailer Mathews Distinguished Service Professor of New Testament and Early Christian Literature.

Susan Schreiner has received a 2018 Faculty Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Mentoring. This annual award recognizes and honors sustained exemplary graduate student teaching and mentoring, and is presented at Spring Convocation. Recent Divinity School awardees include James T. Robinson (2017), Kevin Hector (2013), and Wendy Doniger (2012).