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
The Teaching Faculty Book
2017–2018
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
Omar M. McRoberts

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
Lucy K. Pick
Susan Schreiner

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

History of Religions
Steven Collins
Paul Copp
Wendy Doniger
Christopher Faroone
Matthew Kapstein
James Ketelaar
James T. Robinson
Christian K. Wedemeyer

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

Philosophy of Religions
Daniel A. Arnold
Daniel Brudney
Ryan Coyne
Arnold I. Davidson
Sarah Hammerschlag
Kevin Hector
Matthew Kapstein
Jean-Luc Marion
Françoise Meltzer
Brook A. Ziporyn

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

Religious Ethics
Sarah E. Fredericks
Stephen C. Meredith
Richard B. Miller
Martha C. Nussbaum
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

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

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

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


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 and a Guggenheim Fellowship. 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 the College; Associate Faculty
Ph.D. (Columbia University)

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

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 Barrajān and Islamic Thought in the Twelfth Century (Cambridge University Press, 2017), a study on Ibn Barrajān’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 (well underway), 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.
Steven Collins
Chester D. Tripp Professor in the Humanities, Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations and the College; Associate Faculty
D.Phil. (Oxford University)


Paul Copp
Associate Professor in Chinese Religion and Thought, East Asian Languages and Civilizations, and the College; Director of Graduate Studies, East Asian Languages and Civilizations; Associate Faculty
Ph.D. (Princeton University)

Paul Copp studies the intellectual, material, and visual cultures of Chinese religion during the period stretching from 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). At present, his main project is a paleographical and material-historical study of manuscript handbooks and liturgies discovered among the cache of materials at Dunhuang. Its working title is “Seal and Scroll: Buddhism and Material Culture at Dunhuang and Beyond.” His graduate seminars focus on the philological close reading of texts in their historical (and often material) contexts; on methods for the use of manuscripts, epigraphy, and archaeological remains in the study of pre-modern religious practice; as well as on critical engagement with the fields of Sinology and the history of religions.
Ryan Coyne

Associate Professor of the Philosophy of Religions and Theology; also in the College
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 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 for the first time. Her essays have addressed protest and resistance as theological themes, the use of fiction in theological thinking, feminist and womanist theologies, and “experience” in contemporary theology.

She is currently working on a monograph entitled, “Glorious Life?,” which is supported by the Enhancing Life Project at the University of Chicago and Ruhr-University Bochum, funded by the John Templeton Foundation. It engages historical-theological debates about the glory of given things and of made things, and fosters critical sensibilities about the aliveness of life amidst the challenges and complexities of contemporary life. She serves as a member of the Commission of Faith and Order 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 been a visiting professor at many French institutions (including the Collège de France, the École Normale Supérieure, the University of Paris I and the University of Paris VII) and has also been Professor of the History of Political Philosophy at the University of Pisa and Professor of the Philosophy of Cultures at the University Ca’Foscari Venice, where he has been named an honorary member of the faculty. He is also European editor of the journal Critical Inquiry. Since the autumn of 2014 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 main publications are in French and Italian as well as in English.

Wendy Doniger

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

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

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

Among over forty books published under the names of Wendy Doniger O’Flaherty and Wendy Doniger are seventeen interpretive works, including Siva: The Erotic Ascetic; The Origins of Evil in Hindu Mythology; Women, Androgynes, and Other Mythical Beasts; Dreams, Illusion, and Other Realities; Tales of Sex and Violence: Folklore, Sacrifice, and Danger in the Jaiminiya Brahmana; Other Peoples’ Myths: The Cave of Echoes; Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Ancient Greece and India; The Bedtrick: Tales of Sex and Masquerade; The Implied Spider: Politics and Theology in Myth; The Woman Who Pretended To Be Who She Was; The Hindus: An Alternative History; On Hinduism; Redeeming the Kamasutra; The Ring of Truth, and Other Myths of Sex and Jewelry; and Against Dharma: Dissent in the Ancient Indian Sciences of Sex and Politics (the 2014 Terry Lectures at Yale).

Among her translations are three Penguin Classics—Hindu Myths: A Sourcebook, Translated from the Sanskrit; The Rig Veda: An Anthology, 108 Hymns Translated from the Sanskrit; and The Laws of Manu (with Brian K. Smith)—a new translation of the Kamasutra (with Sudhir Kakar), and Hinduism, for the Norton Anthology of World Religions. In progress are Memoirs of a Jewish Girlhood (the 2015 Mandel Lectures at Brandeis); The Mythology of Horses in India; and a novel, Horses for Lovers, Dogs for Husbands.
Fred M. Donner

Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, the Oriental Institute, and the College; 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 second book project, tentatively titled “The Idea of an Islamic Social Science” examines Iranian attempts to “Islamize” social scientific and humanistic inquiries by placing them in conversation with Islamic philosophy, theology, ethics, and mysticism. Other interests include Iranian spiritual cinema and its engagements with Hollywood sci-fi, fantasy, and horror, and the embodiment of the Islamic state through everyday practices and acts of intimacy.

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.

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 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 rabbinics, 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*

*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.
Sarah Hammerschlag

Associate Professor of Religion and Literature, Philosophy of Religions and History of Judaism; also in the College; Director of the MA Program

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

Sarah Hammerschlag is a scholar in the area of Religion and Literature. Her research thus far has focused on the position of Judaism in the post-World War II French intellectual scene, a field that puts her at the crossroads of numerous disciplines and scholarly approaches including philosophy, literary studies, and intellectual history. She is the author of *The Figural Jew: Politics and Identity in Postwar French Thought* (University of Chicago Press, 2010) and *Broken Tablets: Levinas, Derrida and the Literary Afterlife of Religion* (Columbia University Press, 2016) and the editor of the forthcoming 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.

Hector’s first book, *Theology without Metaphysics* (Cambridge University Press, 2011), thus 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

*B.A., Harvard University
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.

Based on fieldwork in Egypt since 2004, Heo’s first book analyzes Coptic Orthodoxy and Christian-Muslim relations. Her ethnography 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

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)

Professor Hopkins is the author of Black Theology—Essays on Gender Perspectives (2017) and Black Theology—Essays on Global Perspectives (2017). With representatives from Hawaii, Fiji, Japan, Australia, India, England, South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Cuba, Jamaica, Brazil, and the USA, the network forged learning about neighbors through neighbors sharing their cultures. In fact, the larger thought focused on building bridges across global cultures. 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 and with wealth management.

Professor Hopkins was awarded the honorary recognition of Professor Extraordinarious in the Department of Philosophy, Practical and Systematic Theology at the University of South Africa in Pretoria.

Dwight N. Hopkins is a constructive theologian working in the areas of contemporary models of theology, various forms of liberation theologies (especially black and other third-world manifestations), and East-West cross-cultural comparisons. Professor Hopkins is interested in multidisciplinary approaches to the academic study of religious thought, especially cultural, political, economic, and interpretive methods.

His latest works are Teaching Global Theologies; The Cambridge Companion to Black Theology; Being Human: Race, Culture, and Religion; Walk Together Children: Black and Womanist Theologies, Church and Theological Education; Another World Is Possible: Spiritualities and Religions of Global Darker Peoples; Loving the Body: Black Religious Studies and the Erotic (coeditor); Heart and Head: Black Theology-Past, Present, and Future; Introducing Black Theology of Liberation; Down, Up and Over: Slave Religion and Black Theology; and Black Faith and Public Talk: Essays in Honor of James Cone’s Black Theology and Black Power (editor). His previous texts include Black Theology USA and South Africa: Politics, Culture, and Liberation; Shoes That Fit Our Feet: Sources for a Constructive Black Theology, and We Are One Voice: Essays on Black Theology in South Africa and the USA (coeditor). He is an editor of Religions/Globalizations: Theories and Cases; Changing Conversations: Religious Reflection and Cultural Analysis; and Liberation Theologies, Postmodernity and the Americas. Professor Hopkins is senior editor of the Henry McNeil Turner/Sojourner Truth Series in Black Religion (Orbis Books). He is an ordained American Baptist minister.
John Howell

Associate Dean of Students and Senior Lecturer in American Religions, Literature, and Visual Culture
M.A., Ph.D. (University of Chicago)

John Howell’s research and teaching focus on American religion, literature, and history in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. He has particular interests in Civil War memory, American religious historiography, antimodernism, and religion and American visual and material cultures. He is in the process of completing a manuscript for a book titled *Religion and the Problem of American Civil War Literature*—which reorients the long discourse on Civil War literature from the vantage of early postwar observers’ neuralgic concern to figure the war’s implications for a providential understanding of American history and the project of literary nationalism—and is in the planning stages of subsequent projects on the civil religion thesis and discourse and on the constructive potential of American satire. His recent courses include “The Image of American Religion,” “The Second Great Awakening,” and “Religion and American Civil War Literature.”

Jeff Jay

Instructor 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.

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.

Karin Krause

*Assistant Professor of Byzantine Theology and Visual Culture; Affiliated Faculty in the Department of Art History*

*M.A. (University of Bonn)*  
*Ph.D. (University of Munich)*

Karin Krause has published on a wide array of topics, including Byzantine book illumination, the interrelation of images and texts, monumental art of Medieval Italy, Early Christian pilgrimage art, the cult of relics, art and liturgy, visual allegory, the classical heritage, phenomena of cultural and artistic transfer from Byzantium to the West, and the legacy of Byzantine art in post-medieval Europe.

Her first book, *The Illustrated Homilies of John Chrysostom in Byzantium* (published in German) was awarded a prize by the German Southeast Europe Society (Südosteuropa Gesellschaft). Krause is currently completing her second monograph, tentatively titled *Propaganda – Cult – Scholarship. The Response to Byzantine Artifacts in Venice (13th–18th c.)*. This investigation is situated within the broader contexts of cultural exchange in the Mediterranean area and of Western perceptions of Byzantium until the Baroque age. She has begun research for a further book project, “Images of Inspiration in Byzantium and Beyond,” for which she is exploring visual and textual material relevant to the notion of divine inspiration from Antiquity to the later Middle Ages.

Karin Krause has received research grants and fellowships from the German Research Community (DFG), the Max Planck Society, the Gerda Henkel Foundation, Dumbarton Oaks, the University of Basel; the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Hellenic Republic.

Before joining the University of Chicago faculty Professor Krause was Lecturer of Art History at the University of Basel and Visiting Lecturer at the Universities of Vienna, Bonn and Helsinki.
Aden Kumler

Associate Professor 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 supported by the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, the Medieval Academy of America, The Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, and the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts. She is the author of Translating Truth: Ambitious Images and Religious Knowledge in Late Medieval France and England (Yale University Press, 2011). Recent essays include “Manufacturing the sacred in the Middle Ages: The Eucharist and other medieval works of ars” English Language Notes 53 (2015): 9-44; “Imitatio rerum: Sacred objects in the St Giles Hospital Processional,” Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies, 43 (2014): 469–502; and “Sacrament to Street Food,” Cabinet: A Quarterly of Art and Culture, 58 (2016): 63-71. Her current book in progress examines the formal and conceptual relationships cultivated between the Eucharistic host, coins, and seals over the course of the Middle Ages.

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 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 will be 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, Políticas 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 will be 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.”

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 marshals postmodern critical theories in order to explore representations of the subject. Her first book, *Salome and the Dance of Writing*, deals with mimesis as evidenced in literary texts that describe painted portraits. In *Hot Property: The Stakes and Claims of Literary Originality*, she examines the ideas of originality and authorship in a series of case studies from Descartes to Walter Benjamin. Her book on Joan of Arc (*For Fear of the Fire: Joan of Arc and the Limits of Subjectivity*), undertakes a study of that figure in relation to gendered subjectivity as it is treated in philosophical and literary theoretical discourses. At the Divinity School, she delivered the 1996 John Nuveen Lecture, “The Hands of Simone Weil.” She edited (with David Tracy) a “Symposium on ‘God’” for the journal *Critical Inquiry*, and, with Jas’ Elsner a book entitled *Saints: Faith Without Borders*, published by the University of Chicago Press in 2011. Her book *Seeing Double: Baudelaire’s Modernity*, published with Chicago in 2011, argues (among other things) that Baudelaire’s modernity is largely informed by his obsession with Original Sin. She has written the introduction to a book collecting the essays of Jacques Derrida published in *Critical Inquiry* over the years (University of Chicago Press, 2013). Her new book project 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. She was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2015.
Paul Mendes-Flohr

Paul Mendes-Flohr’s major research interests include modern Jewish intellectual history, modern Jewish philosophy and religious thought, philosophy of religion, German intellectual history, and the history and sociology of intellectuals. Together with Bernd Witte, he serves as editor-in-chief of the twenty-two volume German edition of the collected works of Martin Buber, sponsored by the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, and the Heinrich Heine Universität, Düsseldorf, Germany. He has recently published Progress and its Discontents (in Hebrew); The Jew in the Modern: A Documentary History (with Jehuda Reinharz); and Encrucijadas en la Modernidad (Buenos Aires). 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)

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 that have revitalized forgotten themes or have posed new questions for moral philosophers and religious ethicists to take up. Miller’s courses are organized so that students can situate arguments, theories, or concepts within a larger historical and intellectual arc. He is currently at work on two research projects: a critical monograph on the ethics of religious studies, and an intellectual history of “nature” in early modern and modern critical discourses about religion.

Margaret M. Mitchell

Shailer Mathews 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 is the author of four books: Paul and the Rhetoric of Reconciliation (1991); The Heavenly Trumpet: John Chrysostom and the Art of Pauline Interpretation (2000); The “Belly-Myther” of Endor: Interpretations of 1 Kingdoms 28 in the Early Church (with Rowan A. Greer, 2007), and Paul, the Corinthians and the Birth of Christian Hermeneutics (2010). The first volume of her collected essays, Paul and the Emergence of Christian Textuality: Early Christian Literary Culture in Context, will appear in autumn, 2017. She is also the coeditor of two volumes, including, with Frances M. Young, The Cambridge History of Christianity, Volume 1: Origins to Constantine (2006). Prof. Mitchell is currently completing a volume, John Chrysostom on Paul: Praises and Problem Passages, to be published in the Writings from the Greco-Roman World series (Society of Biblical Literature), and, among other projects, engaging in research on the newly discovered Greek homilies on the Psalms by Origen of Alexandria.

Prof. Mitchell’s research has been supported by grants 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.
Martha C. Nussbaum

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

She has taught at Harvard, Brown, and Oxford Universities, chaired the American Philosophical Association’s Committee on International Cooperation, the Committee on the Status of Women, and the Committee for Public Philosophy, been a member of the Council of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a member of the Board of the American Council of Learned Societies and has received fifty-one honorary degrees. She is the recipient of numerous awards and honors. She received the Grawemeyer Award in Education in 2002, the Barnard College Medal of Distinction in 2003, the Radcliffe Alumnae Recognition Award in 2007, and the Centennial Medal of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University in 2010. In 2009 she won the A.SK Award from the German Social Science Research Council (WZB) for her contributions to “social system reform,” and the American Philosophical Society’s Henry M. Phillips Prize in Jurisprudence. In 2012 she was awarded the Prince of Asturias Prize in the Social Sciences; in 2015 the Inamori Ethics Prize by the Inamori International Center for Ethics and Excellence at Case Western Reserve University. In 2016 Prof. Nussbaum was awarded the Kyoto Prize in Arts and Philosophy, bestowed by the Inamori Foundation. It is among the most significant international accolades for scholarly work and is widely regarded as the most prestigious award in fields that are traditionally not recognized with a Nobel Prize.

Willemien Otten

Professor of Theology and of the History of Christianity; also in the College; Associate Faculty in the Department of History

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, where among other things she organized a colloquium on “Thinking Nature and the Nature of Thinking” and gave a public lecture entitled “Theological and Environmental Criticism: Creation, Pantheism, and the Problem of Thinking Nature.”

A Dutch native, Otten has served since 2009 on a Task Force for Sustainable Humanities across the various Dutch universities. The work of the Task Force was completed at the end of 2016.
Lucy K. Pick

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

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

Lucy Pick is a historian of medieval religious thought and practice with a particular interest in the relationships between gender, sexuality, power, and religion in the medieval world. Her book, *Her Father’s Daughter: Gender, Power, and Religion in the Early Spanish Kingdoms*, is forthcoming from Cornell University Press in Autumn 2017. In it, she considers a group of royal women, daughters of kings consecrated to religion, for what their lives reveal about structures of power and the roles of gender and religion within the early Iberian kingdoms. She examines these women as privileged members of networks of power because of their religious role in the kingdom, using liturgy, art, manuscripts, architecture, documentary texts, historical narratives, saints’ lives, theological treatises, and epigraphy.

Her other current research and teaching interests include the role of virginity and the body in early and medieval Christianity, the uses of dialogue as religious pedagogy, connections between historical writing and theology, the development of monastic thought and practice, reading and writing as spiritual exercises, and the ways in which religion shapes lives through ritual. Her first book, *Conflict and Coexistence: Archbishop Rodrigo and the Muslims and Jews of Thirteenth-Century Spain*, discusses Jewish, Christian, and Muslim relations in thirteenth-century Toledo by making connections between the political theology, historical and polemical writings, scholarly patronage, and politics of Archbishop Rodrigo Jiménez de Rada (1209–1247) and shows how majority groups defined themselves by framing and reframing discourses about minority theological competitors.

Her first novel, *Pilgrimage*, was published in 2014. It is a story about the Middle Ages that explores betrayal, friendship, illness, miracles, healing, and redemption on the road to Compostela.
Tahera Qutbuddin

Associate Professor of Arabic Literature, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and the College; Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities; Associate Faculty

Ph.D. (Harvard University)

Tahera Qutbuddin’s research focuses on intersections of the literary, the religious, and the political in classical Arabic poetry and prose. 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

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 he has taught over the years at Chicago include the following: Jewish Philosophy in the Middle Ages; Medieval Commentaries on Ecclesiastes; Readings in Maimonides’ Guide of the Perplexed; Abraham in History, Literature, and Thought (with Hans-Josef Klauck); The Jewish Study of the Bible in the Middle Ages; The Jews in Medieval Spain; Interactions between Jewish Philosophy and Literature in the Middle Ages; Jewish Heretics and Apostates in the Middle Ages; Soul, Intellect and Immortality in Medieval Jewish Thought; Science and Scripture: Jewish Philosophical Exegesis in the Middle Ages; 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; Jerusalem during the Middle Ages: Conquest, Pilgrimage and the Imaginaire; Reading Other People’s Scriptures (with Lucy Pick); 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

Ph.D. (Stanford University)

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

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 accredditer 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 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; OnCreaturely 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)


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.
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 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); and, most recently, *Dust that Breathes: Christian Faith and the New Humanisms* (2010).

Professor Schweiker has published numerous articles and award-winning essays, as well as edited and contributed to six volumes, including *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 is on ethics and the integrity of life.

Professor Schweiker was awarded in 2014 an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Uppsala in Uppsala, Sweden. 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), which focuses upon the love poetry of Ibn al-‘Arabi; and The Cambridge History of Arabic Literature, Al-Andalus (2000), which he coedited and to which he contributed. His books on mysticism include 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 al-‘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; Associate Faculty in the Department of Classics and the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations; also in the College; Interim Director, Chicago Center for Jewish 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. His second book, *A Prophet Like Moses: Prophecy, Law, and Israelite Religion* (Oxford University Press, 2014), analyzes the relationship between law and prophecy in the pentateuchal sources and the role of the Documentary Hypothesis for understanding Israelite religion. Stackert has published essays in various volumes and journals, including *Journal of Biblical Literature, Catholic Biblical Quarterly, Vetus Testamentum, Journal of Hebrew Scriptures, Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel, Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions, Journal of Ancient Judaism*, and *Journal of Religion*. He is currently working on a monograph on the biblical Priestly religious imagination. He is also coauthoring a commentary on 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

Associate 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 Egypt, and sociolinguistics. Since 2002, Sofía Torallas Tovar has been the curator of the Papyrological collections at the Abadia de Montserrat and directs the research conducted by the CSIC and Universitat Pompeu Fabra at the Abbey (http://dvctvs.upf.edu). She participates in international projects concerned with the editing of Coptic texts, such as those on Marc and 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 in editing the Syene ostraca.
Gary Tubb

Anupama and Guru Ramakrishnan Professor in the Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations and Faculty Director, University of Chicago Center in Delhi; Associate Faculty

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

A leading 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; connections between philosophy, religion, and literature in Sanskrit culture; 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, On Poets and Pots: Essays on Sanskrit Poetry, Poetics and Philosophy, is also forthcoming from Oxford University Press.

Works in progress include an edition and translation of the Bhojaprabandha of Ballala (to appear as In the Court of King Bhoja in the Clay Sanskrit Library), 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.
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).

Laurie Zoloth

Dean and Margaret E. Burton Professor of Religion

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

Laurie Zoloth was appointed Dean of the Divinity School as of July 1, 2017. Her 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 post-modern Jewish philosophy, including the writings of 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 practices of interreligious dialogue, exploring how religion plays a role in public discussion and policy. She is the 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.

She previously served as a Charles McCormick Deering Professor of Teaching Excellence at Northwestern University, holding appointments in the Department of Religious Studies in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences and in the Feinberg School of Medicine. She was the founding director of the Brady Program in Ethics and Civic Life at the Weinberg College and founding director of the Center for Bioethics, Science and Society at the Feinberg School. Zoloth also served as the president of Northwestern’s Faculty Senate.

Her work on bioethics and health care led her to serve on the NASA Advisory Council, the space agency’s highest civilian advisory board; the International Planetary Protection Committee; the National Recombinant DNA Advisory Board, and the executive committee of the International Society for Stem Cell Research. She served as chair of the first bioethics advisory board at the Howard Hughes Medical Research Institute and has testified in front of Congress, the President’s Commission on Bioethics and state legislatures.

Zoloth holds a bachelor’s degree in women studies from the University of California, Berkeley and a bachelor’s degree in nursing from the University of the State of New York—she began her career as a neonatal nurse working in impoverished communities. She received a master’s degree in Jewish studies and a doctorate in social ethics from the Graduate Theological Union as well as a master’s degree in English from San Francisco State University.
Recent Faculty Awards and Honors

Sarah E. Fredericks and colleagues from three other universities were awarded a grant from Humanities Without Walls, a consortium of 15 Midwestern universities that funds cross-institutional teams of faculty and graduate students researching topics in the humanities. Humanities Without Walls is funded by a $3 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. 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.

Willemien Otten was named the 2017 Tipton Visiting Distinguished Chair at the University of California, Santa Barbara. The Tipton endowment each year brings a world-renowned scholar to UCSB to deliver a public lecture and teach advanced undergraduate and graduate students on a theme that reflects the work of the visiting scholar.

James T. Robinson received a 2017 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 the Spring Convocation. Recent Divinity School awardees include Kevin Hector (2013), Wendy Doniger (2012), and William Schweiker (2011).

William Schweiker was chosen as a recipient of a Neubauer Collegium faculty research project grant. “Living Aspirations” will be done in conjunction with Günter Thomas of Ruhr-University Bochum, and build on the success of their Enhancing Life Project. Thirteen collaborative research projects on complex humanistic questions that will be addressed in the 13 collaborative research projects were selected by the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society for 2017–2018 grants.