

**Research Interests**

Hebrew Bible and ancient Near Eastern literature; literary theory, metaphor, and narrative technique; women's, gender, and queer studies; fan fiction studies; book of Esther

**Teaching Interests**

Building student awareness of the Bible as a living, diverse text that invites critical interrogation; increasing inclusivity and diversity of students and teaching methods.

**Education**

- 2020 Brandeis University, Ph.D. in Bible and Ancient Near East  
Dissertation: "Inconspicuous Consumption: Conceptual Metaphors of Women as Food in the Deuteronomistic History" (Primary advisor: Jacqueline Vayntrub)
- 2009 Yale Divinity School, M.A. in Religion, Hebrew Bible concentration, *summa cum laude*
- 2004 Rice University, B.A. in Religious Studies and Philosophy

**Employment**

- 2023+ Assistant Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Dayton
- 2020–2023 Postdoctoral Fellow at MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society  
Researched and assisted with development for the Centre for Advanced Study project, "Books Known Only by Title: Exploring the Gendered Structures of First Millennium Imagined Libraries"
- 2021–2023 Communications and Web Assistant for MF Center for the Advanced Study of Religion  
Furthered the work of MF CASR, including scholar support and public presentations of affiliated scholars' research.
- 2018–2023 Freelance Researcher, HarvardX (Harvard University)  
Researched, designed, and created resources for online course, "The Jewish Bible."
- 2013 Freelance Writer, Society of Biblical Literature  
Wrote glossary terms, quizzes, and timelines for the public BibleOdyssey website.

**Books**

- Gendered Violence in Biblical Narrative: The Devouring Metaphor*. Routledge, 2024.
- Unruly Books: Rethinking Ancient and Academic Imaginations of Religious Texts*. Editor-in-chief (co-editors: Liv Ingeborg Lied and Marianne Bjelland Kartzow). Forthcoming December 2024 with Bloomsbury.

**Articles**

- "Queer Futures and Phallic Humor in the Book of Esther." *Journal for Interdisciplinary Biblical Studies* 5.2 (2024), 54-80.
- "Commanding the Queen: Agency and Gender Roles in the Book of Esther." *Religion and Gender* 14 (2024), 13–33.
- "'I Wrote My Way Out': Embodied Appropriation, Fan Fiction, and the Book of Esther." *Bible and Critical Theory* 19.1-2 (2023).
- "A Jubilee of Fifty Books Known Only by Title" (primary author). *Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha* 32.4 (2023), 376–398.
- "'Call Me By Your Name': Critical Fabulation and the Woman of Judges 19." *Journal for Interdisciplinary Biblical Studies* 4.2 (2022), 5–27.
- "Getting Steamy in Amnon's Chamber: Philological and Metaphorical Observations on 2 Samuel 13." *Vetus Testamentum* 72.3 (2022), 355–385.
- "To Serve Woman: Jezebel, Anat, and the Metaphor of Women as Food." In *Researching Metaphor in the Ancient Near East*, edited by Marta Pallavidini and Ludovico Portuese. (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2020), 29-52.
- "Mind the Gap: An Introduction to Biblical Philology, Gender, and the Two Mothers." *Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel* (HeBAI), vol. 8, 2019: 388-398.

## Pending Articles

- "In and Out of the Jewish Heavenly Archive: Esther and Imagined Canon." Pending 2024 publication in *Esther: Themes and Issues* (Equinox, 2024), eds. Kristin Joachimsen and Helge Bezold.
- "Learning to Read [Scripture] Well': Philology's Role in Jewish-Christian Dialogue." Co-authored. Pending in *Journal of Crosscultural Studies of Religion and Theology*.
- "Why Do You Transgress?': Non-Binary Biblical Readings of Mordecai and Beyond." Pending in *Trans Biblical: Variations on Interpretation and Embodiment*, eds. Joseph Marchal, Melissa Harl Sellow, and Katy E. Valentine.
- "Metaphors Realized in Narrative: A New Direction for Biblical Metaphor." Pending in *Religion Compass*.

## Teaching Experience

- 2024 Professor, UD, "Introduction to Religious & Theological Studies" (undergraduate)
- 2024 Professor, UD, "Old Testament Exegesis: The Pentateuch" (graduate)
- 2023 Professor, UD, "Introduction to Religious & Theological Studies" (undergraduate)
- 2023 Professor, UD, "The Pentateuch" (undergraduate)
- 2023 Instructor, MF, "Methods and Tools for Biblical Interpretation" (undergraduate)
- 2023 Instructor, MF, "Gender, History, and Theology" (graduate)
- 2022 Instructor, MF, "Methods and Tools for Biblical Interpretation" (undergraduate)
- 2022 Instructor, MF, "Gender, History, and Theology" (graduate)
- 2021 Guest Instructor, MF, "Gender, History, and Theology" (graduate)
- 2020 Instructor, BOLLI (Brandeis Osher Lifelong Learning Institute), "Deborah: Judge, Prophet, Warrior, and Mother in Ancient Israel" (adult education)
- 2017 Instructor, Brandeis University, "Fan Fiction, Ancient and Modern" (undergraduate)
- 2016 Instructor, Brandeis University, "Fan Fiction, Ancient and Modern" (undergraduate)
- 2014 Teaching Assistant, Brandeis University, "Introduction to Christianity" (undergraduate)
- 2013 Seminar participant, Brandeis University, 2013, "Teaching the Bible" with Marc Brettler
- 2010 Teaching Assistant, Brandeis University, 2010, "World of the Ancient Near East" (undergraduate)

## Popular Scholarship and Service

- "Purim's original queen: How studying the Book of Esther as fan fiction can teach us about the roots of an unruly Jewish festival." March 2024, TheConversation.com
- "As an Ohioan and a Christian, I want all to have the right to flourish in their own gender identity." January 2024, Dayton Daily News.
- "Burning Desire Punished by Fire." May 2023, TheTorah.com
- Organizer, "Books Known Only by Title" Webinar Series, 2020-2022.  
Co-facilitated and publicized a series of ten professional webinars.
- Owner/creator, "Slightly Alive Translations," 2015-present.  
Blog of original ancient Near Eastern translations with 5000+ followers.
- Lay Teacher, various Episcopal churches, 2009-present.  
Taught adult education classes. Selected past topics: "The Apocalyptic Bible";  
"Housewives, Harlots, and Heroines: Women in the Old Testament";  
"Divine Justice and Divine Injustice: Vengeance, Fairness, and Mercy in the Bible";  
"Home Away from Home: Hearing God's Voice in a Foreign Land";  
"Scripture's Spectrum: Queer, Trans, and Non-Binary Bible Readings."

## Professional Presentations

- 2024 "That Power Looks So Good On You': Esther/Ishtar in Pink."  
"Barbie and the Bible: Conversations in Pop Culture, Gender, and Theology" conference.
- 2023 "Canon Not Found: Esther's Self-Positioning in the Jewish Archive."  
AJS Annual Meeting.
- "Esther's Ephemeral Archive: Uneasy Memory in Esther 9."  
SBL Annual Meeting.
- "Queer Futures and Phallic Humor in the Book of Esther."  
Invited lecture at Smith College.
- "Transformative Texts: Opportunities for Biblical and Parabiblical Literature as Fan Fiction"  
Organizer and round table participant at SBL Global Virtual Meeting.
- "Non-Binary Performances in Esther: How Stories Create Gender."

- Invited lecture at Uppsala University.
- 2022 “Transing Biblical Characters: Trans Lenses on Textual Interpretation.”  
Organizer and round table participant at AJS annual conference.
- “Queering, Fearing, Persevering: Jewish and Queer Identity in Esther 8:17.”  
SBL Annual Meeting.
- “Stories MAKE Gender.”  
Invited lecture at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg.
- “For the Love of the Jews: The Book of Esther as Emotioned Literacy.”  
European Association of Biblical Studies annual conference.
- “Absences in the Archive: Marginalized Voices.”  
ATTR Seminar workshop.
- “Boiled Bread and Steamy Metaphors in a Biblical Rape Narrative.”  
MF CASR Lunchtime Lecture.
- “*The Oxford Handbook of the Apocrypha*: Reflections on Working by Candlelight.”  
Invited reviewer for Enoch Seminar Virtual Book Review.
- “On Realized Metaphor and Sheep-Herding: Representing the Shepherd-King.”  
“Text, Materiality, and Context” PhD seminar at MF.
- “‘Why Do You Transgress?’ Non-Binary Biblical Readings of Mordecai and Beyond.”  
Invited paper at “Studies in Second Temple Judaism: A Global Enterprise” Conference.
- 2021 “Absence and Yearning: Applying Affect Theory to Textual Gaps.”  
“Lost, Yearned-for, and Unknown Books and Manuscripts” Conference.
- “Love and Eunuchs: Esther and Ishtar as Queer Queens.”  
OTSEM Annual Meeting; presented in revised form at SBL Annual Meeting
- “That’s What She (?) Said: Gendering Authorship and the Hebrew Bible.”  
“Books Known Only by Title” webinar.
- “A Banquet of Words: Reading Esther as Fan Fiction.”  
MF CASR Lunchtime Lecture
- 2019 “To Serve Woman: Jezebel, Anat, and the Metaphor of Women as Food.”  
Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale.
- 2017 “The Concubine in the Refrigerator: Consumption and Objectification in Judges 19.”  
Regional SBL and SBL Annual Meeting.
- 2015 “The ‘Alternate Universe’ of the Foreign Court: Esther and Daniel as Jewish Fan Fiction.”  
European Association of Biblical Studies annual conference.
- 2013 “‘His Dominion is in Darkness’: Zoroastrian Influences on the Development of Belial.”  
Dead Sea Scrolls Life in Ancient Times Graduate Symposium.

### Honors and Awards

- 2024 University of Dayton Research Council Seed Grant (“Establishing Methodologies for Fan Fiction Approaches to Biblical Studies”)
- 2023 Jordan Schnitzer First Book Publication Award, Association for Jewish Studies
- 2022 Selected Participant for SBL/Wabash Teaching Workshop (“Teaching the Bible with BLM and Other Social Protests and Movements”)
- 2021 Nahum and Anne Glatzer Endowed Prize in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies for Outstanding Dissertation, Brandeis University
- 2020 Scholar in Residence at the Hadassah Brandeis Institute
- 2019 Brandeis Graduate School of Arts and Sciences grant to present at RAI
- 2017 Best Student Paper, Regional SBL – Northeast  
“The Concubine in the Refrigerator: Consumption and Objectification in Judges 19”
- 2015 Brandeis Graduate School of Arts and Sciences grant to present at EABS
- 2014 NEJS Graduate Student & Faculty Research Fund grant for Tell es-Safi archaeological dig
- 2008 Edward Ashley Walker Scholarship Prize for academic achievement, Yale University  
Two Brothers Fellowship for study in Israel, Yale University
- 2004 Aparicio Prize for Best Undergraduate Paper in Religious Studies, Rice University  
“Permanently Among the Angels: *1 Enoch* and the Attainability of Wisdom”
- 2002 Aparicio Prize for Best Undergraduate Paper in Religious Studies, Rice University  
“Mea Culpa: The Reinvented Religion of Eating Disorders and Self Injury”

## **Languages**

Primary proficiency: Ancient Hebrew, Akkadian, Ugaritic/Northwest Semitic, German

Secondary proficiency: Ancient Greek, French, Modern Hebrew

Beginning proficiency: Norwegian, Arabic

## **Organizational Affiliations**

Society of Biblical Literature, 2008–present

Association for Jewish Studies, 2021–present

Catholic Biblical Association, 2023–present

European Association of Biblical Studies, 2015–present

Jewish-Christian Network of Young Scholars Salzburg, 2021–present

Renewed Philology Affiliated Early Career Researcher, 2021–present

MF Center for Advanced Research (CASR) Fellow, 2021–2023

MOVE Research Group at MF, leader, 2020-2023

OTSEM (Old Testament Studies: Epistemologies and Methods), post-doc representative,  
2021-2023