

Research Interests

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

Teaching Interests

Building 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

Recent Employment

- 2023+ Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, University of Dayton
- 2020–2023 Postdoctoral Fellow at MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society
Researched and assisted with the Centre for Advanced Study project, "Books Known Only by Title: Exploring the Gendered Structures of First Millennium Imagined Libraries"
- 2021–2023 Communications/Web Assistant, 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)
Co-created online course, "The Jewish Bible."
- 2013 Freelance Writer, Society of Biblical Literature
Wrote glossary terms, quizzes, and timelines for the 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). Bloomsbury, 2025.

Articles

- "In and Out of the Jewish Heavenly Archive: Esther and Imagined Canon." In *Esther: Themes and Issues* (Equinox, 2025), eds. Kristin Joachimsen and Helge Bezold.
- "'Why Do You Transgress?': Non-Binary Biblical Readings of Mordecai and Beyond." In *Trans Biblical: Variations on Interpretation and Embodiment* (Westminster John Knox, 2025), eds. Joseph Marchal, Melissa Harl Sellev, and Katy E. Valentine.
- "'Learning to Read [Scripture] Well': Philology's Role in Jewish-Christian Dialogue." Co-authored. *Crosscultural Studies of Religion and Theology* 3.1 (2024).
- Book review of Tom de Bruin, *Fan Fiction and Early Christian Writings: Apocrypha, Pseudepigrapha and Canon, Bible & Critical Theory* 20.2 (2025).
- Book review of Julie Faith Parker, *Eve Isn't Evil: Feminist Readings of the Bible to Upend Our Assumptions*. *Review of Biblical Literature*, January 2025.
- "Metaphors Realized in Narrative: A New Direction for Biblical Metaphor." *Religion Compass* 18.10 (2024), 1–8.
- "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.

Forthcoming Articles

- “‘That Power Looks So Good On You’: Esther/Ishtar in Pink.” Forthcoming in *Barbie and the Bible* (Lexington/Fortress, 2025), eds. Christopher Hays and Meghan Henning.
- “She Laughs at the Future” (Prov. 31:24b): Reading Sarah’s Queer Jouissance.” Forthcoming in the *Religious Studies Review* Symposium on *Lee Edelman and the Queer Study of Religion*.

Teaching Experience

- 2024 Professor, UD, “The Psalms” (graduate)
- 2024 Professor, UD, “The Psalms” (undergraduate)
- 2024 Professor, UD, “Scripture as Fan Fiction” (undergraduate)
- 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)

Professional Presentations

- 2025 Review of Tom de Bruin, *Fan Fiction and Early Christian Writings: Apocrypha, Pseudepigrapha and Canon*, SBL Annual Meeting (pending).
- Response to panel review of Esther Brownsmith, *Gendered Violence in Biblical Narrative: The Devouring Metaphor*, SBL Annual Meeting (pending).
- “The Problem of Purim’s Proximity: New Light on Esther and the Akitu Festival,” The Bible in Its Ancient Iranian Context conference at UCLA.
- 2024 “Queer Futures Among Ezekiel’s Dry Bones: Is the Grave a Rectum?,” AJS Annual Meeting.
- “Fan Fiction’s ‘Legitimation Paradox’ and the Circumscribed Subversiveness of Esther and Ruth,” SBL Annual Meeting.
- Review of Anatheia Portier-Young, *The Prophetic Body: Embodiment and Mediation in Biblical*

- Prophetic Literature*, Catholic Biblical Association of America.
- “‘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,” presentation in “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,” presentation at “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

- 2025 University of Dayton Public Humanities Internal Seed Grant
- 2025 Sacred Writes Summer Training Cohort on Religion, Gender, and Sexuality
- 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, 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: *I 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”

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.
- Adult education teacher, various Episcopal churches, 2009-present.
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”; “Biblical Killjoys.”

Service

- Invited peer reviewer of articles and manuscripts for publishers including Oxford University Press, Bloomsbury, Routledge, Lexington Books/Fortress Academic, *Vetus Testamentum*, *Scandinavian Journal of the Old Testament*, *Avar*, *Biblical Theology Bulletin*, *Journal of Interdisciplinary Biblical Studies*, and *Fashion Studies*.
- Undergraduate Committee, Department of Religious Studies, University of Dayton (2023/2024).
- MA Committee, Department of Religious Studies, University of Dayton (2024/2025).
- Treasurer, QDayton Affinity Group, University of Dayton (2024/2025).
- Leader, MOVE Research Group at MF, 2022-2023
- Post-doc representative, OTSEM (Old Testament Studies: Epistemologies & Methods), 2021-2023

Languages

- Primary proficiency: Ancient Hebrew, Akkadian, Ugaritic/Northwest Semitic, German
- Secondary proficiency: Ancient Greek, French, Modern Hebrew

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