

## KATHARINE MERSHON

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Whitman College  
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Department of Religion  
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### EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Religion, Literature, and Visual Culture, University of Chicago Divinity School, 2018  
Dissertation: *Canine Redemption Narratives in the American Imaginary, 1981-2018*  
Committee: Richard A. Rosengarten (co-chair), Heather Keenleyside (co-chair), James T. Robinson, Wendy Doniger
- M.A. Religious Studies, University of Chicago Divinity School, 2009
- B.A. English Literature, minor in Religious Studies, *summa cum laude*, Lake Forest College, 2006

### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2019-2020 Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion, Whitman College
- 2018-2019 Eric and Ina Johnston Visiting Assistant Professor in Religious Ethics, Whitman College

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Peer-Reviewed Journal Article

- 2019 “The Theology of Dog Training in Vicki Hearne’s *Adam’s Task*,” *Animals and World Religions* Special Issue edited by Anna Peterson, *Religions* 10, no. 1, <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel10010025>

#### Peer-Reviewed Book Chapter

- 2017 “Gender and Animal Rescue,” *Gender: Animals*, edited by Juno Salazar Parreñas, Macmillan Interdisciplinary Handbooks, Farmington Hills, MI: Macmillan Reference USA: 119-131

#### Book Reviews

- 2016 *The Question of the Animal and Religion* by Aaron Gross in *The Journal of Religion* 96, no. 3: 404-405.
- 2016 *City Creatures*, edited by Gavin Van Horn and Dave Aftandilian in *Humanimalia: A Journal of Human/Animal Interface Studies* 8, no. 1: 136-143.

#### Manuscripts in Preparation

- Canine Redemption Narratives in the American Imaginary* (book manuscript)  
“Race, Religion, and the Ethics of Apologies”

### **Web-Based Publications**

- 2019 [“Ten Things I Learned in My First Year of Full-Time Teaching,”](#) *Craft of Teaching in the Academic Study of Religion*
- 2019 [“On Pain and Perfection,”](#) *Craft of Teaching in the Academic Study of Religion*
- 2018 [“A Pedagogy of Vulnerability,”](#) *Craft of Teaching in the Academic Study of Religion*

### **FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS**

- 2019 Animals & Society Summer Research Institute Fellowship in Human-Animal Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2017-2018 University of Chicago Center for Teaching Fellowship
- 2017 Divinity School Prize for Excellence in Teaching, University of Chicago
- 2017-2018 Fuerstenberg Fellowship in Jewish Studies, University of Chicago
- 2016-2017 Junior Fellowship, Martin E. Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion, University of Chicago Divinity School
- 2016-2017 Alma Wilson Teaching Fellowship, University of Chicago Undergraduate Program in Religious Studies
- 2014-2016 Animal Studies Workshop Grant, University of Chicago Council on Advanced Studies
- 2014 Norman Wait Harris Foundation Grant, “Why Do Animal Studies? An Interdisciplinary Conference on Animal Studies,” University of Chicago
- 2013 Jerald Brauer Seminar Fellowship, Martin E. Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion, University of Chicago Divinity School
- 2011 Yiddish Book Center Travel Grant, “Translating Yiddish Literature: Mobilizing a New Generation,” Amherst College
- 2010 Scholarship in Jewish Studies, Leo Baeck Summer University, Humboldt University

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **Whitman College**

- Sorry-Not-Sorry: The Ethics of Apologies (Fall 2018, 2019)
- Encounters: The First Year Experience (Fall 2019, Spring 2020)
- From CrossFit to the Kardashians: Religion as Popular Culture (Spring 2019, 2020)

Animals, Ethics, and Religion (Spring 2019, 2020)

The American Diaspora: Jewish Identity in 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Literature (Fall 2018)

Hyphenated Identities: Race and Ethnicity in Jewish-American Culture (Spring 2019)

### **Lake Forest College**

Introduction to Literature (Fall 2016)

### **University of Chicago**

Fundamentals of Teaching in the Humanities (Fall 2017)

Animals, Ethics, and Religion (Winter 2017)

A Medieval Menagerie: Animal Spirituality in the Middle Ages (Spring 2015)

Reading Cultures, College Writing Program (Fall 2014, Winter 2014/2015)

Media Aesthetics, College Writing Program (Fall 2008/2011, Spring 2012/2016-2018)

## **CONFERENCE ACTIVITY**

### **Conferences Organized**

2015 “The Multispecies Salon,” University of Chicago

2014 “Why Do Animal Studies?,” University of Chicago

### **Panels Organized**

2020 “Nature and Morality: (Non)Human Sexuality in Science and Literature,” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL

2018 “Teaching Race, Teaching Visual Culture,” Race and Pedagogy Working Group, The Smart Museum, University of Chicago

2018 “Teaching in a Distracted Classroom Workshop with James M. Lang,” University of Chicago Center for Teaching and the Divinity School Craft of Teaching Program

2012 “Collapsing Identities: Moving from Jewish(Minus)One to Jewish(Plus)Many,” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, Providence, RI

### **Papers Presented**

2019 “Why The White Dog had to be Killed: When Redemption Fails,” American Academy of Religion Conference, San Diego, CA

2018 “Relational Redemption and Theologies of Dog Training,” Animal/Nonhuman Conference, Northwestern University and University of Chicago

2016 “Fantasies of Redemption: Race, Gender, and Species in the Michael Vick Dogfighting Case,” American Academy of Religion Conference, San Antonio, TX

- 2015 “Reading Religion into the American Pit Bull,” Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts Conference, Houston, TX
- 2015 “Beyond Boundaries: Representations of Jews and Animals in Art Spiegelman’s *Maus*,” Midwest Religion Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Ohio Northern University

### **CAMPUS TALKS**

- 2019 “Repping the Whitmans in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” Power & Privilege Symposium, Whitman College
- 2019 “Reading Religion into the American Dog,” Academic Talk for Alpha Phi Sorority
- 2018 “Teaching Animal Studies,” Animal/Nonhuman Workshop, University of Chicago

### **SERVICE**

- Committee Member, B.A. Thesis, “Where There’s A Feminist Will, There’s A Rabbinic Way: Jewish-Feminist Inclusion in Bioethics,” 2019
- Peer Reviewer, *Humanimalia: A Journal of Human/Animal Interface Studies*, 2016
- Founder and Coordinator, Animal Studies Workshop, University of Chicago, 2014-2016
- Editorial Assistant, *Journal of Religion*, University of Chicago Press, 2012-2014
- Board Member, Divinity School Women’s Caucus, University of Chicago, 2012-2014
- Coordinator, Jewish Studies Colloquium, University of Chicago Center for Jewish Studies, 2011-2012
- Coordinator, Religion and Literature Club, University of Chicago, 2010-2012

### **PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING**

- 2019 Cultivating Difficult Dialogues Working Group, Whitman College
- 2019 College Students Mental Health Workshop, Whitman College
- 2019 Intergroup Dialogue Week-Long Institute, Whitman College
- 2017 Craft of Teaching in the Academic Study of Religion Certificate, University of Chicago
- 2017 College Teaching Certificate, University of Chicago Center for Teaching
- 2015 Ten-Week Course, “Teaching Advanced Academic & Professional Writing,” Little Red Schoolhouse, University of Chicago
- 2008 Ten-Week Course, “Pedagogies of Writing for College Students,” Writing Program, University of Chicago

## **TEACHING AND RESEARCH AREAS**

Religions in America  
Animal Studies  
Critical Race Theory  
Environmental Humanities  
Religion and Popular Culture  
Gender Studies  
Jewish-American Studies  
Religion and Literature

## **QUALIFYING EXAMS**

Religious History of the United States and Colonial North America (Catherine A. Brekus)  
History of Criticism and Theory (Richard A. Rosengarten/Sarah Hammerschlag)  
Modern Jewish Thought (Paul Mendes-Flohr)  
Genres of Literature: The American Novel and Animal Fables (Richard A. Rosengarten/Sarah Hammerschlag)

## **LANGUAGES**

French: Reading, writing, and basic conversation  
German: Reading, writing, and basic conversation  
Yiddish: Reading, writing, and basic conversation

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Academy of Religion, 2008-present  
American Studies Association, 2010-present  
American Comparative Literature Association, 2012-present  
Association for Jewish Studies, 2010-present  
Modern Language Association, 2010-present  
Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts, 2010-present

## **REFERENCES**

Jonathan S. Walters  
Ball Endowed Chair of Humanities  
Professor of Religion  
345 Boyer Avenue  
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(509) 527-5246  
[walterjs@whitman.edu](mailto:walterjs@whitman.edu)

Helen Kim  
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Richard A. Rosengarten  
Associate Professor of Religion and Literature  
1025 E. 58<sup>th</sup> Street  
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