

## KATHARINE MERSHON

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Whitman College  
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Department of Religion  
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### EMPLOYMENT

2018-2019 Eric and Ina Johnston Visiting Assistant Professor in Religious Ethics

### EDUCATION

2018 Ph.D. in Religion, Literature, and Visual Culture, the University of Chicago Divinity School  
Dissertation: "Canine Redemption Narratives in the American Imaginary, 1981-2001"  
Committee: Richard A. Rosengarten (co-chair), Heather Keenleyside (co-chair), James T. Robinson, Wendy Doniger

2014 Successfully completed Qualifying Examinations in:  
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)

2009 M.A. in Religious Studies, the University of Chicago Divinity School

2006 B.A. in English Literature, minor in Religious Studies, *summa cum laude*, Lake Forest College

### TEACHING COMPETENCIES

Religions in America (1600-present)  
Animal Studies and Ethics  
Critical Race Theory and Gender Studies  
Visual Culture  
Jewish American Literature  
Academic Writing

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Peer-Reviewed Book Chapter

2017 "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

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

- 2017-2018 Chicago Center for Teaching Fellowship, the University of Chicago  
 2017 Divinity School Prize for Excellence in Teaching, the University of Chicago  
 2017-2018 Fuerstenberg Fellowship in Jewish Studies, the University of Chicago  
 2016-2017 Junior Fellowship, The Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion, the University of Chicago Divinity School  
 2016-2017 Alma Wilson Teaching Fellowship, the University of Chicago Undergraduate Program in Religious Studies  
 2014-2016 Animal Studies Workshop, University of Chicago Council on Advanced Studies grant  
 2014 Norman Wait Harris Foundation grant, “Why Do Animal Studies? An Interdisciplinary Conference on Animal Studies,” the University of Chicago  
 2013 Fellowship, The Jerald Brauer Seminar, Martin E. Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion, the University of Chicago Divinity School  
 2010 Scholarship in Jewish Studies, Leo Baeck Summer University, Humboldt University  
 2005 Phi Beta Kappa, Lake Forest College

### **RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**

- 2018 “Teaching Race, Teaching Visual Culture,” Panelist, Race and Pedagogy Working Group, the Smart Museum at the University of Chicago  
 2018 “Relational Redemption and Theologies of Dog Training,” Animal/Nonhuman Conference, Northwestern University and the University of Chicago  
 2018 Invited Presentation, “Teaching Animal Studies,” The Animal/Nonhuman Workshop, the 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 in the American Pit Bull,” Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts annual conference, Rice University  
 2015 “Beyond Boundaries: Representations of Jews and Animals in Art Spiegelman’s *Maus*,” Conference of the Midwest Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Ohio Northern University

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **Instructor of Record, Whitman College (5)**

- 2019 “From CrossFit to the Kardashians: Religion as Popular Culture,” an introductory undergraduate course (Spring Semester)  
 2019 “Animals, Ethics, and Religion,” an introductory undergraduate course (Spring Semester)  
 2019 “Hyphenated Identities: Race and Ethnicity in Jewish-American Culture,” an advanced undergraduate course (Spring Semester)

- 2018 “Sorry-Not-Sorry: The Ethics of Apologies,” an advanced undergraduate course (Fall Semester)
- 2018 “The American Diaspora: Jewish Identity in 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Literature,” an introductory undergraduate course (Fall Semester)

**Instructor of Record, The University of Chicago (2)**

- 2017 “Fundamentals of Teaching in the Humanities,” a team-taught graduate course (Fall Quarter)
- 2017 “Animals, Ethics, and Religion,” an interdisciplinary undergraduate course (Winter Quarter)

**Instructor of Record, Lake Forest College (1)**

- 2016 “Introduction to Literature,” an English literature course (Fall Semester)

**Teaching Assistantships with Stand-Alone Discussion Sections, The University of Chicago (12)**

- 2008-2018 “Media Aesthetics” Humanities Common Core for first-year college students, the College Writing Program (Eight Courses)
- 2015 “A Medieval Menagerie: Animal Spirituality in the Middle Ages,” the Divinity School (One Quarter)
- 2014-2015 “Reading Cultures” Humanities Common Core, the Writing Program (Three Quarters)

**PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING**

- 2017 Craft of Teaching in the Academic Study of Religion Certificate, the University of Chicago Divinity School  
 One-Day “Teaching@UChicago” workshop  
 Three “Craft of Teaching” seminars  
 Five workshops on authority, identity, embodiment, religion, and close reading  
 Review of a philosophy of teaching statement with a Divinity School faculty member
- 2017 College Teaching Certificate, Chicago Center for Teaching, the University of Chicago  
 Individual Teaching Consultation of one stand-alone course meeting  
 Two-Day “Seminar and Workshop on Course Design”  
 Two-Day “Seminar and Workshop on Teaching”  
 Submission and review of a completed Teaching Portfolio with CCT Associate Director
- 2015 Ten-Week “Teaching Advanced Academic & Professional Writing” Course, Little Red Schoolhouse, the University of Chicago
- 2008 Ten-Week “Pedagogies of Writing for First-Year Students” Course, Writing Program, the University of Chicago

**SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

- 2018 Organizer, “Teaching Race, Teaching Visual Culture,” Race and Pedagogy Working Group, the Smart Museum at the University of Chicago
- 2018 Organizer and Moderator, “Teaching in a Distracted Classroom Workshop with James M. Lang and Joela M. Jacobs,” The University of Chicago Center for Teaching and the Divinity School Craft of Teaching Program
- 2016 Peer Reviewer, *Humanimalia: A Journal of Human/Animal Interface Studies*
- 2015 Co-organizer and Moderator of interdisciplinary seminar “The Multispecies Salon,” The University of Chicago

- 2014-2016 Coordinator, Animal Studies Workshop, Council on Advanced Studies, the University of Chicago
- 2014 Co-organizer and Moderator of two-day interdisciplinary conference “Why Do Animal Studies?” the University of Chicago
- 2012 Co-organizer and moderator of interdisciplinary seminar “Collapsing Identities: Moving from Jewish(Minus)One to Jewish(Plus)Many,” American Comparative Literature Association convention, Providence, RI
- 2012-2014 Editorial Assistant, *The Journal of Religion*, the University of Chicago Press
- 2012-2014 Board Member, Divinity School Women’s Caucus, the University of Chicago
- 2011-2012 Coordinator, Jewish Studies Colloquium, the University of Chicago Center for Jewish Studies
- 2010-2012 Coordinator, Religion and Literature Club, the University of Chicago
- 2005 Intern, *Story Quarterly Literary Magazine*, Kenilworth, IL

## LANGUAGES

- French Reading, writing, and basic conversational knowledge  
High pass on the University of Chicago Divinity School French for Reading Exam, Fall 2010
- German Reading, writing, and basic conversational knowledge  
High pass on the University of Chicago Divinity School German for Reading Exam, Spring 2008
- Yiddish Basic reading, writing, and conversational knowledge

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion, American Studies Association, Association for Jewish Studies, Modern Language Association, Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts

## REFERENCES

Jonathan Walters, Ball Endowed Chair of Humanities, Professor of Religion, and Department Chair: [waltersjs@whitman.edu](mailto:waltersjs@whitman.edu)

Richard A. Rosengarten, Associate Professor of Religion and Literature: [raroseng@uchicago.edu](mailto:raroseng@uchicago.edu)

Heather Keenleyside, Associate Professor of English, Department of English: [heatherk@uchicago.edu](mailto:heatherk@uchicago.edu)

Wendy Doniger, Mircea Eliade Distinguished Professor of the History of Religions: [don8@uchicago.edu](mailto:don8@uchicago.edu)

James T. Robinson, Caroline E. Haskell Professor of the History of Judaism, Islamic Studies, and the History of Religions: [jtr@uchicago.edu](mailto:jtr@uchicago.edu)