

# CURRICULUM VITAE

Emma Wasserman

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## Education

Ph.D., Yale University in New Testament; December, 2005; dissertation: “The Death of the Soul in Romans 7: Sin, Death, and the Law in Light of Hellenistic Moral Psychology.”

A.B., Brown University in Religious Studies and Classics: Greek; 1997

## Academic Appointments

2020–	Professor of Religion, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
2014–20	Associate Professor of Religion, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
2008–14	Assistant Professor of Religion, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
2006–08	Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion, Reed College
2006 (Spring)	Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Brown University
2005 (Summer)	Instructor, Yale Divinity School

## Publications

### A. Books

*Apocalypse as Holy War: Divine Politics and Polemics in the World of Paul* (Anchor Yale Bible Series; New Haven: Yale University Press, 2018).

*The Death of the Soul in Romans 7: Sin, Death, and the Law in Light of Hellenistic Moral Psychology* (WUNT 2.56; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2008)

### B. Articles and Book Chapters (published and forthcoming)

“Dualism and Difference: On the Shape of the Cosmos in Apocalyptic Texts” to be published in a conference volume, *From Difference to Deviance: Rivalry and Enmity in Earliest Christianity*, Leuven Centre for the Study of the Gospels in 2024.

“Religion and Reification: Rethinking Monotheism and Idolatry in Early Christian Texts,” accepted for publication in *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion*, to be published in 2023.

“Gods and Non-Gods in Galatia: Reconsidering Paul’s *stoicheia*” in the *Social World of Ancient Jews and Christians: Essays in Honor of L. Michael White* ed. Jaimie Gunderson, Tony Keddie, and Douglas Boin (SBL Press, 2022), 19–41.

“Philosophical Cosmology and Religious Polemic: the ‘Worship of Creation’ in Philo and the Wisdom of Solomon,” *Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha* 31 (2021): 6–28.

“Beyond Angels and Demons: Reconsidering the ‘Cosmic Powers’ of Colossians,” in *With the Loyal You Show Yourself Loyal: Essays in Honor of Saul M. Olyan*, ed. Tracy Lemos et al. (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2021), 417–430.

“Class Rhetoric in the Study of Paul’s Apocalypticism,” published in *The Struggle over Class: Socioeconomic Interpretation of Ancient Jewish and Christian*, ed. G. Anthony Keddie, Michael Flexsenhar III, and Steven J. Friesen (Atlanta, GA: SBL Press, 2020), 313–346.

“Paul and Religion,” in the *Oxford Handbook of Pauline Studies* (ed. R. Barry Matlock and Matthew Novenson; Oxford University Press, 2019); 22 pages.

“Gentile Gods at the Eschaton: A Reconsideration of Paul’s ‘Principalities and Powers’ in 1 Corinthians 15:23–28,” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 136 (2017): 751–770.

“Paul Among the (Ancient) Philosophers: the Case of Romans 7,” in *Paul and the Philosophers*, ed. Ward Blanton, Hent De Vries (Fordham University Press, 2013), 69–83.

“Beyond Apocalyptic Dualism: Ranks of Divinities in *1 Enoch* and Daniel,” in *The One Who Sows Bountifully: Essays in Honors of Stanley K. Stowers*, ed. Caroline Johnson Hodge, Saul M. Olyan, Daniel Ullucci, and Emma Wasserman (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2013), 189–199

“Paul Beyond the Judaism/Hellenism Divide? The Case of Pauline Anthropology in Romans 7 and 2 Corinthians 4–5,” in *Christian Origins and Hellenistic Judaism: Social and Literary Contexts for the New Testament*, ed. Stanley E. Porter and Andrew W. Pitts (Leiden: Brill, 2012), 259–279

“‘An Idol is Nothing in the World’ (1 Cor 8:4): The Metaphysical Contradictions of 1 Corinthians 8:1–11:1 in the Context of Jewish Idolatry Polemics,” in *Portraits of Jesus: Essays on Christology, Festschrift for Harold W. Attridge* (ed. Susan Myers; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2012), 201–227

“Paul Among the Philosophers: The Case of Sin in Romans 6–8,” *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* 30.4 (2008): 387–415

“The Death of the Soul in Romans 7: Revisiting Paul’s Anthropology in Light of Hellenistic Moral Psychology,” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 126.4 (2007): 793–816

### **C. Articles and Essays in Preparation**

1. “Mere ‘Parts’ and Lesser Gods: Reconsidering the *stoicheia tou kosmou* in Galatians 4,” to be submitted to the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, 2023.
2. “Powers in Heaven, More Than Two: Rethinking Metaphysical and Ethical ‘Dualism’ in Apocalyptic Literature,” to be submitted to a peer reviewed journal in 2023.
3. Of Gods and Pantheons: Pneuma and the Upper Tiers of the Divine Order, to be submitted to a peer reviewed journal in 2024.

### **D. Encyclopedia and Other Contributions**

“Galatians: Introduction and Annotation,” published in the fifth edition of the *New Oxford Annotated Bible*, Oxford University Press, 2018.

“Paul,” in the *Encyclopedia of Philosophy of Religion*, ed. Stewart Goetz and Charles Taliaferro. Wiley Blackwell (Online, 2019).

### **E. Book Reviews**

Review essay of J. Eyl, *Signs, Gifts, and Wonders: Divination in the Letters of Paul* (Oxford, 2019) and G. Bazzana, *Having the Spirit of Christ: Spirit Possession and Exorcism in Early Christian Groups* (Yale, 2020), published in *Syndicate*, July 2020. Approx. 2000 words.

Review of *Theorizing 'Religion' in Antiquity: From Eusebea to Impietas*, ed. Nickolas Roubekas (Equinox, 2019) in the *Review of Biblical Literature*, published in June 2021. Approx. 1700 words.

Review of T. Engberg-Pedersen, *Cosmology and Self in the Apostle Paul: The Material Spirit* (Oxford, 2010) in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 77.2 (2015): 368–379

Review of S. Pearce, *The Land of the Body: Studies in Philo's Representation of Egypt* (Mohr Siebeck, 2007) in *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 43.1 (2012): 121–122

Review of N. Elliott, *The Arrogance of the Nations: Reading Romans in the Shadow of Empire* (Fortress, 2008) in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 72.2 (2010): 371–372

### **D. Co-edited Volumes**

*Pedagogy in Early Judaism and Early Christianity*, ed. Karina M. Hogan, Matthew Goff, and Emma Wasserman (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2016)

*The One Who Sows Bountifully: Essays in Honors of Stanley K. Stowers*, ed. Caroline Johnson Hodge, Saul M. Olyan, Daniel Ullucci, and Emma Wasserman (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2013).

### **Honors and Awards**

Institute for Research in the Humanities, Kingdon Fellowship, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2021–22.

Frankel Institute for Judaic Studies, Fellowship 2021–22 (declined)

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for the Albright Institute for Archeological Research, 2020 (one semester, postponed and declined).

DAAD German language scholarship, 2015

NEH Summer Seminar, “Problems in the Study of Religion,” (at the University of Virginia), fellow, Summer, 2014

Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, fellow 2011–12

### **Papers Delivered**

1. “Of Gods and Pantheons: Pneuma and the Upper Tiers of the Divine Order,” invited paper for a conference at Brown University, May 2024.

2. Response to the panel, “Dystopia in Ancient Judean Literature” by the Utopian Studies Group, to be delivered at the SBL Annual Meeting, 2023.
3. “Beyond Monotheism and Polytheism: Polemics and Pantheons in Philippians 2:5–11” invited paper for the colloquium, “Gods In and Outside the Cosmos” at St. Andrews University, Scotland, June 2023.
4. “Paul’s Appropriation of the Law in Romans 8” invited paper, given at the “Romans 8 Through the Lens(es) of Research, Past and Present” at the University of Vienna, September 2022.
5. “Inauthentic Teachers as an Internal Threat in Corinth,” invited presentation delivered at the conference “From Difference to Deviance: Rivalry and Enmity in Earliest Christianity,” Leuven Centre for the Study of the Gospels, July 22–23, 2022
6. “The Shape of Paul’s Apocalyptic Thought” invited presentation at the Aberdeen New Testament Seminar, online, May 4, 2022.
7. Co-convener and plenary address, “Apocalyptic Paul,” online Enoch Seminar/Frankel Institute, October, 2021.
8. “Review of Gabrielle Boccaccini’s *Paul’s Three Paths to Salvation*,” online Enoch Seminar October, 2021.
9. “Cross-cultural Patterns, Ideal types, and Human universals: The Case of Early Christian ‘Demons’,” invited paper for Canadian Society of Biblical Literature, online, June 2021.
10. “Apocalypticism and Cosmology in Early Christianity,” read at the 11<sup>th</sup> Enoch Seminar on Apocalypticism in the Ancient World, Munich/Online, May 2021.
11. “Religious Polemics and the Stoicheia of Galatians 4,” read at in the Pauline Epistles Group of the Society of Biblical Literature, Online, 2020.
12. “Revisiting the stoicheia of Galatians 4,” delivered at an online conference in honor of L. Michael White, Oct. 2020.
13. “Early Christianity and Theories of Rationalization” read at the Annual Conference of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, New York City, August, 2019.
14. “Philosophy and Early Christianity,” invited lecture for the series, “Wisdom in the Ancient World,” at Pennsylvania State University, April 11, 2019.
15. “Philosophical Cosmology and the ‘Worship of Creation’ in the Wisdom of Solomon,” read at the read at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Conference, Denver, CO, November, 2018.
16. “Divine Presence and Self-Mastery in the Testament of the 12 Patriarchs,” read at the International Society for Neoplatonic Studies Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, June 2018.
17. “Class Rhetoric in the Study of Paul’s Apocalypticism,” read at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX, November, 2016.

18. "Myths of Victory' and Powers of Evil in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Theology," read at the Italian Centre for Advanced Studies on Religions, Bertinoro, Italy, 2016.
19. "Review of *Paul Within Judaism: Restoring the First-Century Context to the Apostle*, ed. M. Nanos and M. Zetterholm," read at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, November, 2015.
20. "Beyond Author, Text, and Tradition: Paul's Intellectual Repertoire in 1 Corinthians 8," read at the American Academy of Religion Eastern International Meeting, Montreal, CA, May 2015.
21. "Gods, Religions, and Divine Exceptionalism: The Case of So-called Idolatry," read at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the North American Association for the Study of Religion (co-sponsored by the Society of Biblical Literature), San Diego, CA, November, 2014.
22. "The Introspective Conscience of the West? Rethinking Sin and Self in Romans 7," invited paper read at the Biblical Symposium in the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Florida Southern College, April 1, 2014, Lakeland, FL.
23. "Myths of Victory: Sin and Apocalyptic Battle in Paul's Letters," read at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Conference, Baltimore, November, 2013
24. "Beyond Christian Ideology: 'The New Testament' as Evidence for Ancient Religion," read at the conference Religious Studies 50 Years After Schempp: History, Institution, Theory, Bloomington, Ind., September, 2013
25. "Are *Daimonia* Apocalyptic Powers? A Reconsideration of Paul's Language about Gods in 1 Cor 8–11:1," read at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Conference, November 2012
26. "What is Apocalypticism? 'Cosmic Dualism' in *1 Enoch*, Daniel 10, and 1 Corinthians 15," presented to the Boston Patristics Group, February 2012
27. "Suffering and Victimization in Paul's Letters," read at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Conference, November 2011
28. "Does Christian Apocalyptic Further Progressive Politics? Cosmic Hierarchy, Apocalypticism, and Subjectivity in the Letters of Paul," read at the Modern Languages Association Annual Meeting, January 2011
29. "A Reconsideration of 'Cosmic Dualism' in *1 Enoch*, Daniel 10, and 1 Corinthians 15," read at the Columbia University New Testament Seminar, February 2011
30. "Cosmic Hierarchy and Rebellion in 1 Corinthian 15," read at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Conference, November 2010
31. "Evil Everywhere? Demons, Spirits, and Powers in the Letters of Paul," invited lecture in the Blake Lecture Series, Virginia Commonwealth University, October 2010

32. "Cosmic Hierarchy in the Apocalypticism of the Apostle Paul," read at the International Association for the History of Religions Quinquennial World Congress, August 2010
33. "Does Paul Have a Consistent Anthropology? Appropriation and Synthesis of Philosophical Traditions in Romans 7 and 2 Corinthians 4–5," read at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Conference, November 2009
34. "Situating the Subject in Paul's Letter to the Romans: The Lutheran Interpretation of Paul and its Legacies in Contemporary Thought," read at the joint meeting of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion and the Society for Psychological Anthropology, March 2009
35. "What is an Apocalyptic Cosmology? Human and Non-Human Agents in *1 Enoch* and *Jubilees*," read at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Conference, November 2008
36. "Demons Yes, Powers No: An Historical Critique of the Notion of Sin as a 'Power' in Romans," read at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Conference, November 2008
37. "Paul Among the Philosophers: The Case of Sin in Romans 6–8," read at the International Society of Biblical Literature Meeting, July 2007
38. "*Akrasia*, *akolasia*, and Self-Contradiction in Romans 7," read at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Conference, November 2005
39. "Sin, Death, and the Law in Light of Platonic Moral Psychology," presented to the Seminar on Culture and Religion in the Ancient Mediterranean, Brown University; October 2005
40. "The Limits of Law: Written Law in Romans 7," read at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Conference, November 2003
41. "Unwritten Law and Custom in Philo's *Hypothetica*," read at the New England Regional Society of Biblical Literature Meeting, May 2003
42. "Paul and the Introspective Manhood of the West: The Inner Man of Romans 2," read at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Conference, November 2001

### **Research Interests**

Early Christian literature; the social description of religious specialists in Mediterranean antiquity; apocalypticism in early Judaism and Christianity; Philo of Alexandria; Jewish wisdom literature; law and legal polemics in early Christian literature; Hellenistic philosophy, especially ethics and cosmology; the Jewish and Christian appropriation of philosophy.

Theories of religion, especially as applied to the study of early Christian history; strong interest in particular types of social theory, especially Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, Pierre Bourdieu, and Theodore Schatzki; and Cognitive Science of Religion.

### **Languages:**

Classical Greek; Latin; Biblical and Dead Sea Scrolls Hebrew; Classical Ethiopic (Ge'ez); Syriac; German; French.

## Courses Taught

Religion 101: Gods, Myths, and Religions in a Secular Age  
Religion 501: Theory and Methods in the Study of Religion (MA course)  
Origins of Religion: The Axial Age (co-taught with Tao Jiang, 1 credit Byrne seminar)  
Origins of Hell in the Christian West (Honors seminar)  
Apocalypse: Millennial Madness and Myths of Utopia from Revelation to Jon Frum  
The Origins of Western Morality  
Paul and His Interpreters  
Early Christianity/Introduction to the New Testament

## Service

### A. Service to the University

Faculty Evaluator for Research Council Awards, 2022–  
Member, Department of Religion curriculum committee, 2013–  
Undergraduate Director, Department of Religion, Fall 2010–Spring 2018; Fall 2020  
Faculty Evaluator for School of Graduate Studies Diversity Fellowships, 2018–19  
Dissertation Committee for Katherine Whitcomb (Classics), 2016.  
Search committee for Assistant Professor in American Religion, 2009 and 2010; Hebrew Bible in 2012; in Christian Thought, 2015; and for a full-time lecturer, 2018.  
Faculty mentor in the School of Arts and Sciences Honors program from 2016–18  
Thesis co-advisor for Christopher Mercurio “New Approaches in the Interpretation of Genesis 4: Cain and Abel,” winner of the Henry Rutgers Scholars award, 2010  
Independent Study on Pauline Christianity with Bethany Januszka, Fall 2009; Nesrullah Calis, Sp. 2017; Fall 18; Spring 19.  
Department organizer for Rutgers Day, 2009–10  
Byrne Seminars: Apocalypse Now? Religious Movements and the End of Time, Spring 2010 and Fall 2012; Origins of Religion, co-taught with Tao Jiang (Spring 2016)  
Honors Seminars: The Origins of Western Morality, Fall 2009; Apocalypse Now? Religious Movements and the End of Time, Fall 2010; Origins of Hell in Western Tradition, Spring 2014  
Affiliated Faculty, Jewish Studies Department  
Graduate faculty, Classics and Medieval Studies departments

### B. Service Outside the University

Associate Editor (New Testament) for the New Oxford Annotated Bible, 2020–  
Editorial board member, *Journal of Theological Studies*, 2020–  
Editorial board member, *Journal of Biblical Literature*, 2015–2021  
Editorial board member, *Journal for the Study of the Jesus Movement in Its Jewish Setting*, 2016–  
Application Reader for the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study of Harvard University, 2019–  
Outside Dissertation Reader, Fuller Theological Seminary, Spring 2019  
Outside peer-reviewer for Oxford University Press, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada; Rutledge; Wiley-Blackwell; Religious Competition in Antiquity; the *Journal of Theological Studies*; and *Neotestamentica*.  
Society of Biblical Literature Wisdom and Apocalypticism Section, steering committee, 2014– and co-chair of steering committee, Fall 18–

Columbia New Testament Seminar, co-chair 2012–  
Society of Biblical Literature Pauline Epistles group, planning committee 2008–  
and co-chair of planning committee, 2010–17  
Outside program review for Saint Francis College department of Religion and Philosophy, Sp.  
2018.  
Society of Biblical Literature Hellenistic Moral Philosophy and Early Christianity Group,  
steering committee, 2006–2011  
Panelist for “Teaching Introduction to the Bible” at the Center for the Study of World Religion,  
Harvard Divinity School, April 2012  
Organized an interdisciplinary panel on apocalypticism for the International Association for the  
History of Religions Quinquennial World Congress, August 2010  
Panelist for “Success in the Academic Job Market” at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual  
Conference, November 2008  
Society of Biblical Literature Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession, student  
member, 2004–2005