

CURRICULUM VITAE

Shawna Dolansky

Associate Professor, Program in Religion, College of the Humanities

Education

B.A. (Honours), History, May 1995, Queen's University, Kingston, Canada

M.A., Judaic Studies, December 1999, University of California, San Diego

Ph.D., History (specialization: Biblical Israel), December 2002, University of California, San Diego
Dissertation: "Now You See It, Now You Don't: Biblical Perspectives on the Relationship Between Magic and Religion"

Academic Employment

2000-2006:

Lecturer, Department of Religious Studies, San Diego State University.

Lecturer/Faculty Fellow, Program in Judaic Studies, University of California, San Diego.

Lecturer, Program for the Study of Religion, University of California, San Diego.

Lecturer/Faculty Fellow, Eleanor Roosevelt College's "The Making of the Modern World" Writing Program, University of California, San Diego.

Lecturer, "Humanities" Writing Program, Revelle College, University of California, San Diego.

2006-2011: Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religion, Program in Jewish Studies, Northeastern University, Boston MA.

[returned to Canada for family reasons in 2010, unable to sustain commute to Boston and resigned 2011]

2010-2017: Visiting Adjunct Professor, School of Religion, Queen's University, Canada.

2011-2017: Contract Instructor, College of the Humanities and Program in Religion, Carleton University (and Adjunct Research Professor 2013-2017).

2017-2019: Instructor II, Program in Religion, College of the Humanities, Carleton University

2019- : Associate Professor, Program in Religion, College of the Humanities, Carleton University

Professional Honours

Dita Gumpel Fellowship, Program in Judaic Studies, University of California, San Diego, September 1996.

Travel Grant, Women's Caucus, Association for Jewish Studies, October 1999.

Travel Awards, Department of History, University of California, San Diego, September 1999, 2000, 2001.

Summer Teaching Fellowship, Senior Vice Chancellor, UC San Diego, July - August 2000.

Dissertation Fellowship, Department of History, University of California, San Diego, July 2000-June 2001.

Wexler Family Fellowship, Program in Judaic Studies, University of California, San Diego, July 2001.

Regional Scholar Award, Society for Biblical Literature, Pacific Coast Region, March 2002.

University of California Faculty Fellowship Award, Office of the Vice-Chancellor, University of California, San Diego, September 2002 -June 2004.

Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award, Eleanor Roosevelt College, University of California, San Diego, 2006.

Provost's Fellowship for Teaching Excellence, Carleton University, May 2013.

Professional Achievement Award, Carleton University, May 2018.

Current Research Interests

- Myth-making and history-writing in the ancient world
- Daily life in the ancient Near East; reconstructions based on archaeology and textual study
- The origins and development of monotheism
- The origins and development of Judaism and Christianity
- History and religions of the ancient Near East
- Apocalypticism and mysticism
- Gender and Feminist Studies of the Bible and Western religions
- The Bible in Western culture
- Theory & method in the study of religion

Publications

Books

Now You See It, Now You Don't: Biblical Perspectives on the Relationship Between Religion and Magic, Pryor Pettengill Press, Eisenbrauns, 2008.

The Bible Now (with Richard Elliot Friedman), Oxford University Press, June 2011.

Books Edited

Sacred History, Sacred Literature: Essays on Ancient Israel, The Bible, and Religion in Honor of R.E. Friedman on his 60th Birthday, Eisenbrauns, 2008.

Chapters in Edited Books

"After-life: The Biblical Silence" (with Richard Friedman) in *Judaism in Late Antiquity, Part 4: Death, Life-After-Death, Resurrection and the World-to-Come in the Judaisms of Antiquity*, eds. A. J. Avery-Peck and J. Neusner, Brill, Leiden, 2000; pp. 35-59.

"Omitting the Omissions: The Case for Haplography in the Hebrew Bible" (with David Noel Freedman) in *'Imagining' Biblical Worlds: Studies in Spatial, Social, and Historical Constructs in Honour of James W. Flanagan*, eds. David M. Gunn and Paula McNutt, Bloomsbury, 2002; pp. 99-116.

"A Goddess in the Garden?" in *Milk and Honey: Essays on Ancient Israel and the Bible in Appreciation of the Judaic Studies Program at the University of California, San Diego*, eds. S. Malena and D. Miano, Eisenbrauns, 2006; pp. 3-21.

"Parshat Vayishlah" (with Risa Levitt Kohn) in *The Women's Torah Commentary*, T. C. Eskenazi and A. L. Weiss, eds., Union of Reform Judaism Press, 2008; pp. 183-201.

"Parshat Korah" in *The Women's Torah Commentary*, T. C. Eskenazi and A. L. Weiss, eds., Union of Reform Judaism Press, 2008; pp. 893-908.

"Syria-Canaan" in *The Cambridge Companion to Ancient Mediterranean Religions*, ed. Barbet E. Spaeth, Cambridge, 2013; pp. 55-75.

“Re-Figuring Fertility Figurines From Biblical Judah: Fetishistic Functions of the Feminine Form,” *Between Israelite Religion and Old Testament Theology: Essays on Archaeology, History, and Hermeneutics*, Robert Miller ed., Peeter’s Press, 2016.

“Rejecting ‘Patriarchy’: Reflections on Feminism, Biblical Scholarship, and Social Perspective” in *As It Is Written: Writing and Scribalism in Social Perspective*. Ed. Mark Leuchter. Hebrew Bible in Social Perspective. London: Bloomsbury, 2019.

Articles in refereed journals

“Deuteronomy 34, The Death of Moses, Not of Source Criticism,” *Journal of Biblical Literature*, 133, no. 3 (2014): 669-676.

“What is Gendered Historiography and How Do You Do It?” (with Sarah Shectman) in *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures*, in press.

“A (W)hol(e)y Breach: Philology, Gender, and Meaning in the Holiness Code,” in *Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel*, Mohr Siebeck, forthcoming.

Major Encyclopedia or Dictionary Articles

“Pentateuch,” (with Richard Friedman) in *Encyclopaedia Judaica*, F. Skolnik and M. Berenbaum, eds., Thomson Gale Press, 2007; pp. 730-751.

Miscellaneous scholarly publications

Print:

“The ‘Smoking Guns’ are Illusory,” [side-bar translation of Hebrew inscription] in *Biblical Archaeology Review* March/April 2004; pp. 50-51.

“The Multiple Truths of Myths,” *Biblical Archaeology Review*, Jan-Feb 2016, pp. 18 & 60.

Book review of Igal German, *The Fall Reconsidered: A Literary Synthesis of the Primeval Sin Narratives Against the Backdrop of a History of Exegesis*, *Review of Biblical Literature* 10/2018.

Web:

[Publications on thetorah.com:](http://thetorah.com)

“The Immortal Myth of Adam and Eve”

“The Debasement of Dinah”

“Azazel and Homosexuality in Leviticus 16”

“The Import of *Lex Talionis* in the Story of the Blasphemer”

“Why Can Women’s Vows Be Vetoed?”

“*Birkat Kohanim* – The Magic of a Blessing”

[Publications on bibleodyssey.org](http://bibleodyssey.org)

“A Goddess in the Garden: The Fall of Eve”

“Gilgamesh and The Bible”

“Gender and the Bible”

“Sheol”

[Publications on biblicalarchaeology.org:](http://biblicalarchaeology.org)

“How the Serpent Became Satan”

“Understanding Israel’s Ten Commandments”

Editorial Responsibilities

2016-2017: editorial board member for Bible Odyssey, the official public website of the Society for Biblical Literature

2018-2020: General Editor, Hebrew Bible content, BibleOdyssey.org

2019-2021: editorial board member for *Near Eastern Archaeology*, a quarterly journal published by the American Schools of Oriental Research.

Papers Presented

To Learned Societies

“Asherah and Transformative Mythology in the Hebrew Bible,” Association for Jewish Studies, Chicago, December 1999.

“The Disappearance of the Goddess,” Society for Biblical Literature, Nashville, November 2000.

“Now You See It, Now You Don’t: Finding and Defining Magic in the Hebrew Bible,” Society for Biblical Literature, Denver, November 2001.

“The Goddess in the Garden: Transformative Mythology in the Pentateuch,” Society for Biblical Literature, Pacific Coast Region, Claremont, March 2002. *Awarded Regional Scholarship.*

“Now You See It, Now You Don’t: Drawing a Line Between ‘Magic’ and ‘Ritual’ in the Torah,” Society for Biblical Literature, Atlanta, November 2003.

“Ritual Turf Wars: Understanding the Biblical Ban on Magic and Divination,” Society for Biblical Literature, Philadelphia, November 2005.

“The Judean Pillar Figurines: Interpreting Iconography,” Society for Biblical Literature, Boston, November 2008.

“Text and Context: Considerations on the Iconography of Goddesses in Ancient Israel,” Society for Biblical Literature, San Diego, November 2007.

“Re-Figuring "Fertility" Figurines: Fetishistic Functions of the Feminine Form,” presented at American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting, November 2009, New Orleans, LA as part of a panel on “Voodoo Dolls of the Ancient Near East.”

“Rejecting Patriarchy: On Clarifying the Objectives of Feminist Biblical Scholarship,” Society of Biblical Literature, San Diego, November 2014.

“What is Gendered Historiography and How Do You Do It?” Society of Biblical Literature, San Antonio, Nov. 2016.

“The Essence of Conception: Philology and the Physics of Fertility in Ancient Israel,” Society of Biblical Literature, Denver, November 2018.

“From Feminism to Gender: Methods in Reconstructing History and Interpreting Iconography,” American Schools of Oriental Research, November 2019.

To Other Academic Bodies

“A Goddess in the Garden? The Fall of Eve and the Rise of Monotheism,” Hebrew Union College, Los Angeles, February 2004.

“The Fall of Eve,” Cornell University, Department of Near Eastern Studies, February 2005.

“The Fall of Eve,” Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York, January 2006.

“A Goddess in the Garden?” DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana, January 2006.

“The Fall of Eve,” Lawrence University, Appleton, Wisconsin, January 2006.

“Finding Goddesses and Matriarchies in the Archaeological Record,” public lecture sponsored by the program in Jewish Studies, Northeastern University, March 2007.

“Female Figurines from Biblical Israel: Issues in Interpreting Iconography,” for Institute of History, Archaeology, and Education, Manhattan, NY, October 2008.

“On Women’s Bibles and the Bible’s Women: Feminism in Biblical Scholarship,” Journal of the History of Ideas 75th Anniversary Conference, University of Pennsylvania, May 2014.

“A Goddess in the Garden? The Fall of Eve,” “Genesis as Myth and History,” and “The Bible, God, and Sex,” a 3-part lecture series on the Hebrew Bible sponsored by the Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies at Carleton University, Ottawa, February 2012.

“The Exodus: Myth or History?,” Irving and Regina Rosen Public Lecture, Queen’s University, March 2019.

Non-Academic Talks

Too numerous to list: between three and eight per year since 2000, at various synagogues, churches, and community centres.

Teaching Workshop

“The Bible Now,” a one-hour teaching session (jointly with co-author Richard E. Friedman), for the Central Conference of American Rabbis, online at their website: ccarnet.org. November 1, 2011.

Service to the Profession

Offices in learned societies

New England & Eastern Canada Region of the Society of Biblical Literature; Regional Coordinator, 2008-2014.

Society of Biblical Literature, panel co-chair and organizer, 2016, 2019, 2020.

Society of Biblical Literature, Hebrew Bible content editor for BibleOdyssey.org, 2017-2020.

American Schools of Oriental Research, editorial board member for publication *Near Eastern Archaeology*, 2019-2021.

Scholarly assessments

Oxford University Press, manuscript and proposal reviewer, 2015.

Routledge Press, manuscript and proposal reviewer, 2015.

Society of Biblical Literature public scholarship website, BibleOdyssey.org, consultant & contributor 2015-19.

Consultancies and Contract Research

Anchor Bible Commentary Series and Anchor Bible Reference Library, Doubleday; Editorial Assistant 1998-2001.

History Channel, “The Bible Rules” series consultant and on-camera commentator, 2014.

TheTorah.com, consultant and contributor 2014-2017.

BiblicalArchaeology.org, consultant and contributor 2016-2017.

Society for Biblical Literature, Educational Resources and Review Committee, Lesson Plans for Teaching the Bible in Public High School Curricula; consultant and contributor 2016-2017.

Adath Shalom Congregation, Ottawa, Canada; Scholar-in-Residence 2016-2019.

Academic Responsibilities

a) Graduate courses taught at Carleton:

RELI 5851 Religion & Public Life: Jewish Communities, Winter 2012

RELI 5851 The Bible & Public Life, Winter 2013

RELI 5850 (Re)Constructing Religion: Ancient Israel in Archaeology & Text, Winter 2014, W 2016, W 2018

RELI 5850 God in Israel (travel course), Spring 2014

RELI 5850 Sex & The Bible, Winter 2015

RELI 5850 Historiography, Historical Fiction, and Ancient Religions, Winter 2019

b) Undergraduate courses taught at Carleton:

HUMS 1000 Myth and Symbol. Fall-Winter 2011-12, F/W 2014-15, F/W 2015-16, F/W 2018-2019

RELI 1710 Introduction to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. F 2017, W 2018

RELI 2121 Hebrew Bible. S 2012, W 2013, S 2013, W 2014, S 2015, W 2017, F 2017

CLCV 2405 Greek & Roman Sexuality. F 2012

RELI 2535 Gender & Religion. F 2016, W 2018

RELI 2710 Maccabees to Mohammed. F 2017

RELI 2840 Apocalypse in Film. W 2014, F 2018

RELI 2842 Reading Biblical Hebrew. F 2013

RELI 3120 Rabbinic Texts. F 2016

RELI 3741 Classical Approaches to the Study of Religion. F 2018

RELI 3842 Adam & Eve & Their Interpreters. W 2016, F 2017

RELI 3850 God in Israel (travel course). S 2014

RELI 4740 Theory & Method in the Study of Religion. F 2014, F 2015, F 2016

RELI 4850 Sex & The Bible. W 2015

RELI 4850 (Re)Constructing Religion: Ancient Israel in Archaeology & Text. W 2014, W 2016, W 2018
RELI 4850 Historiography, Historical Fiction, and Ancient Religions. Winter 2019
RELI 4851 The Bible and Public Life. W 2013
RELI 4851 Religion & Public Life: Jewish Communities, Winter 2012

c) Supervisions:

Sarah Cook, M.A., Major Research Essay: “Kings, Prophets, and Priests: Ideology and Power in the Deuteronomistic Construction of History.” Completed August 2016.

Simon Zeldin, Honours Thesis: “Biblical Purity and the Paradigm of Patriarchy.” Completed April 2015.

Jacob DesRochers, Honours Thesis: “Oh How He Loves: David, Jonathan, an Ancient Conceptions of Sexuality.” Completed April 2017.

Administrative Responsibilities at Carleton

Assistant Director, Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies, 2012-2014.