

Curriculum Vitae  
Meira Z. Kensky  
Department of Philosophy and Religion  
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Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402  
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### **Currently**

Assistant Professor of Religion, Coe College (Cedar Rapids, IA)

### **Education**

Ph.D. University of Chicago Divinity School, 2009.  
M.A. University of Chicago Divinity School, 2001  
B.A. Sarah Lawrence College, 1999

### **Dissertation**

“Trying Man, Trying God: The Divine Courtroom in Jewish and Christian Literature” (Hans-Josef Klauck, Advisor; Michael Fishbane and Gregory Sterling, Readers)

### **Areas of Study**

Biblical literature (New Testament specialty), Early Christian Literature and History, Second Temple Judaism, Rabbinic Judaism.

### **Areas of Specialization**

Biblical Narrative, Early Jewish and Christian Narrative, Relationship between Early Christian and Rabbinic Thought, Jewish and Christian Biblical Interpretation, Legal Motifs in Jewish and Christian Texts, Historiography in the Mediterranean World, Christian and Jewish Apologetics.

### **Publications**

*The Divine Courtroom in Early Jewish and Christian Literature. WUNT II*; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, forthcoming.  
“Parashat Vayelech: Post-Biblical Exegesis,” *Women of Reform Judaism’s Torah Commentary*. New York: URJ Press, 2007.  
“Bosom of Abraham,” “Burning Bush,” *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*. New York: Walter de Gruyter, 2009.  
“In the Wake of My Mother,” in Steven Holloway, ed. *In the Wake of Tikva Frymer-Kensky*, Gorgias Press, 2009.

### **Teaching Experience**

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religion, Coe College, 2009-.

Courses taught: REL-015-01: Belief and Unbelief  
REL-105-00: Hebrew Bible  
REL-128-00: Judaism

Instructor, Department of Theology, Lewis University, Romeoville, Illinois, 2005-2008.

Courses taught: 19-106: Introduction to Christian Theology  
19-223: Old Testament  
19-225: New Testament  
19-420: Special Topics: Studies in Paul

Instructor, “History-Writing in Ancient Israel,” B’nai Tikvah Congregation, Deerfield, Illinois, Winter 2009.

Instructor, “The Book of Amos and the Beginning of Classical Prophecy,” North Shore Suburban Beth El, Highland Park, Illinois, Fall 2008.

Instructor, “Philo of Alexandria,” Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emunah, Wilmette, Illinois, Spring 2007.

Instructor, “The Book of Job,” Board of Jewish Education of Metropolitan Chicago, Fall 2005.

Instructor, "Worlds of Meaning: An Introduction to World Religions," Genesis at Brandeis University, Summer 2005.

Instructor, "Abraham in Jewish and Christian Biblical Interpretation;" Board of Jewish Education of Metropolitan Chicago, Spring 2005/Winter 2006.

Instructor, "The Origins of Judaism: Jews under Greco-Roman Rule;" Board of Jewish Education of Metropolitan Chicago, Fall 2004.

Teaching Assistant, "Introduction to Historical Studies in Religion;" University of Chicago Divinity School (Hans-Josef Klauck, James Robinson, Instructors), Spring 2004/Spring 2006.

Teaching Assistant, "Women in Ancient Israelite Religion;" McCormick Theological Seminary (Melody Knowles, Instructor), Fall 2000.

### **Professional Experience**

Seminar Assistant, American Academy for Jewish Research Graduate Student Seminar, University of Chicago, June 2003.

Research Assistant, Prof. Melody Knowles (McCormick Theological Seminary, 2001).

Instructor, "Seventy Faces of Wisdom;" Board of Jewish Education of Metropolitan Chicago, Northbrook, IL, 2006-2008.

Instructor, "Dramas of Jewish Living through the Ages;" Florence Melton Adult Mini-School, 2003-2005.

### **Presentations**

"In the Wake of my Mother," Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2007.

"The Weighing of the Soul in Late Antique Art and Literature," Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2006.

"Sanegoria, Kategoria, and the Technical Vocabulary of the Divine Courtroom in Rabbinic Midrash," Chicago Rabbinical Assembly, April 2007.

Response to Robin Jensen, "Dining with the Dead," SHOHET Conference on Roman, Jewish, and Christian Burial Practices, University of Chicago, 2005.

Response to David Aune, Early Christian Studies Workshop, University of Chicago, 2004.

Response to Francis Young, University of Chicago, 2003.

### **Public Lectures**

"Resurrection, the World to Come, and the Messianic Age in Judaism and Christianity," West Suburban Temple Har Zion, Oak Park, Illinois, 2008.

"Another Look at Ruth," Congregation Rodfei Zedek, Chicago, Illinois, 2007.

"Philo of Alexandria and Early Christian Literature," St. John Chrysostom Episcopal Church, Chicago, Illinois, 2007.

"Jesus' Journey to Jerusalem in the Gospels." St. John Chrysostom Episcopal Church, Chicago, Illinois, 2006.

"The Death of Moses in Jewish and Christian Literature." St. John Chrysostom Episcopal Church, Chicago, Illinois, 2006.

"Texts and Textures of Gnosticism: The Hymn of the Pearl." Saints of Faith, Hope, and Charity Roman Catholic Church, Winnetka, Illinois, 2005.

"The Split between Judaism and Christianity I: Insights from Acts of the Apostles." St. John Chrysostom Episcopal Church, Chicago, Illinois, 2004.

"The Split between Judaism and Christianity II: Fighting Words;" St. John Chrysostom Episcopal Church, Chicago, Illinois, 2004.

"The Crucifixion, The New Testament, and the Jews," Beth Hillel Congregation, Wilmette, Illinois, 2004.

### **Awards and Honors**

Dissertation Fellow, Martin Marty Center, University of Chicago, 2007-2008.

Fuerstenberg Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2005-2007.

Milo P. Jewett Prize in Biblical Studies, University of Chicago, 2003.

Milo P. Jewett Prize in Biblical Studies, University of Chicago, 2001.

Stanley and Evelyn Lipkin Prize in the Humanities, Sarah Lawrence College, 1999.  
Divinity School Fellowship, 1999-2001 (M.A.); 2001-2003 (Ph.D.)

### **Miscellaneous Experience**

Admissions Counselor, University of Chicago Office of Undergraduate Admissions, 2000-2004.  
Senior Interviewer, Sarah Lawrence College Office of Admissions, 1998-1999.

### **Language Proficiency**

Greek, Hebrew, French, German.

### **Professional Societies**

Society of Biblical Literature (Member)  
American Academy of Religion (Member)  
Chicago Society for Biblical Research (Associate Member)

### **References**

Hans-Josef Klauck, Michael Fishbane (University of Chicago); Clare Rothschild, Dominic Colonna (Lewis University); Cameron Afzal (Sarah Lawrence College).