

CINDY DAWSON, PH.D.

Biblical Studies • Hebrew Bible & Early Judaism • Great Books
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RESEARCH SPECIALIZATIONS

Hebrew Bible and Early Judaism • Second Temple Judaism • Prophetic Literature • Biblical Studies • Religious Studies • Women, Gender, and Sexuality • New Materialism • Art Anthropology • Disability Studies • Gnosticism • Great Books • Humanities

ACADEMIC TRAINING

- 2022 Ph.D., Religion, Rice University
 Concentration: Early Judaism
 Dissertation: "Woman Zion, Out of Hand: A New Materialist Study of Zion's Movement Within and Between Biblical and Extrabiblical Texts"
 Committee: Matthias Henze, April DeConick, and Cymene Howe
- 2022 Certificate in Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality
 Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality, Rice University
- 2019 M.A., Religion, Rice University
- 2015 M.A., Theology, Fuller Theological Seminary
 Concentration: Biblical Studies

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- ... *Woman Zion, Out of Hand: A New Materialist Study of Zion's Movement*. Oxford University Press. (forthcoming)

Articles

- 2024 "The Matter of Violence: A New Materialist Reading of Woman Jerusalem's Body in Ezekiel 16 and 23." *Biblical Interpretation* 32 (2024): 243–67.
- 2020 "Assaulting Sophia, Protecting Sophia: The Female Body as a Symbolic Artifact in Gnostic Mythology." *Gnosis: Journal of Gnostic Studies* 5 (2020): 149–171.

Book Reviews

- 2023 "On Frank Feder and Matthias Henze's edited, *Textual History of the Bible: The Deuterocanonical Scriptures*." *Religious Studies Review* 48 (2022): 545–48.

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2022 Graduate Teaching Award for Independent Instruction
 Center for Teaching Excellence, Rice University

- 2021 Visionary Partner Dissertation Fellowship
Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Rice University
- 2015–2021 William Marsh Rice Fellowship, Rice University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Houston: Instructional Assistant Professor - Human Situation (Honors College), 2025–present

University of Houston: Lecturer, 2022–2025

- 2025 *RELS 2372 The Bible and Modern Pop Culture*
RELS 1301 Introduction to Religious Studies
- 2024 *RELS 1301 Introduction to Religious Studies (in-person and online asynchronous)*
- 2023 *RELS 2310 Bible and Western Culture I (Hebrew Bible)*
RELS 1301 Introduction to Religious Studies
- 2022 *ENGL 1370 Composition II—Honors (Human Situation: Honors College)*
ENGL 2360 Western World Lit I—Honors (Human Situation: Honors College)

Rice University: Instructor of Record, 2019–2020

- 2020 *RELI 243 The Book of Genesis*
- 2019 *RELI 304 Jesus and the Gospels*

Fuller Theological Seminary: Adjunct Faculty, 2020–2021

- 2021 *OT517 The Minor Prophets* (cancelled)
LG512B Introduction to New Testament Greek: Part II (cancelled)
- 2020 *LG512A Introduction to New Testament Greek: Part I* (cancelled)

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Invited Panels

- 2024 “Woman Zion, Out of Hand.” Society of Biblical Literature, San Diego, CA, co-sponsored by “Metaphor Theory and the Hebrew Bible,” “Biblical Hebrew Poetry,” and Book of Isaiah” sections (Nov 2024)

Papers Presented

- 2024 “A Good Conversation was Had By All: the ‘Exercise of Conversation’ as a Barrier to Human Rights.” Weatherly and Oxford Consortium on Women, Religion, and Human Rights, Fort Worth, TX (Apr 2024)
- “Making It Work? A Caucus of Adjunct and Contingent Faculty.” Co-creator and chair. Southwest Commission on Religious Studies, Irving, TX (Mar 2024)
- “Isaiah 60: Light Everywhere, Light Now.” Southwest Commission on Religious Studies, Irving, TX (Mar 2024)

- 2023 “The Corporeal and Nonverbal Intercession of Woman Zion in 1 Baruch and Lamentations.” Society of Biblical Literature, San Antonio, TX, in “Pseudepigrapha” section (Nov 2023)
- “The Hidden Surrogate in Isaiah 49 and her Erasure in Galatians 4.” Society of Biblical Literature, San Antonio, TX, in “Paul and Politics” section (Nov 2023)
- 2021 “Harry Potter and Janet Osteen teach the Extrabiblical Gospels.” Society of Biblical Literature, San Antonio, TX, in “Teaching Biblical Studies in an Undergraduate Liberal Arts Context” section (Nov 2021)
- 2019 “Body Danger: 1QGenAp and Bodily Agency in Historical and Literary Movement.” Society of Biblical Literature, San Diego, CA, in “Pseudepigrapha” section (Nov 2019)
- 2017 “Hiding Sophia: Preservation of the Female Body’s Value in Gnostic Mythology.” Society of Biblical Literature, Boston, MA, in “Mysticism, Esotericism, and Gnosticism in Antiquity” section (Nov 2017)

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

- 2024– Steering committee member, *Gender, Sexuality, and the Bible*
- 2023– Chief Regional Officer, American Academy of Religion – Southwest region
- 2016–2017 Reli@Rice Mentorship program, co-chair and founding member
- 2015–2017 Copy Editor, *Gnosis: Journal of Gnostic Studies*, Brill

Guest lectures

- 2024 “Marital and Sexual Imagery in the Prophets,” *REL/WOMS 420 Women and the Bible*, Wichita State University, with Rannfrid Thelle (Mar 25)
- 2020 “American Feminist Critique in Religion in the Late 20th Century,” *Reli 300 American Religion* (Apr 4)
- “Judaism,” *RELI 101 Intro to Religion* (Feb 5)
- 2019 “New Earth: Investigating the relationship between religion and the ecological crisis,” *RELI 339 Apocalypse Then and Now* (Nov 21)
- “A new look at *The Late, Great Planet Earth*,” *RELI 339 Apocalypse Then and Now* (Nov 12)
- “Eve’s Daughters Liberated?” *FWIS 161 Feminist Critique of the Bible* (Jan 15)
- 2018 “Feminist Criticism and the Bible,” *RELI 318 Biography of the Bible* (Nov 15)
- “Delitzsch and the implications of Assyriological Research,” *RELI 318 Biography of the Bible* (Oct 23)
- “Mark’s Passion Narratives and the Synoptic Problem,” *RELI 304 Jesus and the Gospels* (Oct 19)
- “Mark 5 and Feminist Interpretation of the NT,” *RELI 304 Jesus and the Gospels* (Oct 17)

- 2017 “The Gospel of Thomas,” *RELI 304 Jesus and the Gospels* (Mar 27)
“Colossians 1-2, the Cosmic Christ, and Colossian Philosophy,” *RELI 365 Paul and the New Testament* (Sept 25)
“The Old Testament in the New,” *RELI 122 The Bible & its Interpreters* (Apr 27)
“The Psalter,” *RELI 122 The Bible & its Interpreters* (Mar 3)

LANGUAGES

Ancient

Hebrew
Greek
Coptic

Modern

German (reading)
French (reading)
Spanish (basic conversational)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society of Biblical Literature
American Academy of Religion
Southwest Commission on Religious Studies

REFERENCES

Matthias Henze

Advisor • Dissertation Committee Chair • Professor

Isla Carroll and Percy E. Turner Professor of Hebrew Bible and Early Judaism

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