

# Caryn Tamber-Rosenau

5627 McKnight St.  
Houston, TX 77035

cmtamber@gmail.com  
Phone: (516) 946-4855

## Education

*Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee* May 2015  
Ph.D., Hebrew Bible  
Minor in Ancient Near Eastern studies  
Graduate certificate in Women's and Gender Studies

*Baltimore Hebrew Institute at Towson University, Towson, Maryland* August 2010  
*(known as Baltimore Hebrew University prior to July 2009)*  
Master of Arts, Jewish Studies  
Concentration: Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations  
Thesis: *Evolution of a Narrative: The Story of Dinah in Genesis, Jubilees and The Testament of Levi*

*University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania* May 2003  
Major: Communications, Minor: Women's Studies  
*Magna Cum Laude*

## Dissertation

*Striking Women: Performance and Gender in the Hebrew Bible and Early Jewish Literature*  
Exploring the role of gender and sexuality performance in the three texts dealing with "lethal women": Judges 4-5, the Book of Judith, and Pseudo-Philo's *Biblical Antiquities* 31. Using frameworks derived from queer theory, this project argues that the woman at the center of each of the three texts is able to get in position to slay the general and save the day expressly because of her over-the-top use of the signifiers of "femininity."

## Committee:

Annalisa Azzoni  
Douglas A. Knight  
Jack M. Sasson  
Herbert R. Marbury  
Ellen T. Armour  
David J. Wasserstein

## University Teaching Experience

<i>University of Houston, Houston, Texas</i> Instructional assistant professor Courses: Religion and Film; Jewish and Christian Texts and Traditions (co-instructor); Bible and Western Culture I; Introduction to Jewish Studies; Female Divinities; Jews in the Ancient World	2016-present
<i>Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee</i> Lecturer Courses: Themes in the Hebrew Bible; Classical Judaism; Introduction to Judaism; Gender, Sexuality, and Desire in Ancient Jewish Literature	2015-2016 academic year
Sole instructor for Elementary Biblical Hebrew II Sole instructor for Elementary Biblical Hebrew I	Spring 2015, 2014 Fall 2014, 2013
Sole instructor for Elementary Modern Hebrew I	Fall 2013
Teaching Assistant for Hebrew Bible	2012, 2011
Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Themes in the Hebrew Bible	Fall 2010

## Other Teaching Experience

<i>West End Synagogue, Nashville Tennessee</i> Taught mini-course for high school students about biblical women	January 2015
<i>Vanderbilt Summer Academy, Nashville, Tennessee</i> Guest lecturer for course on religion and food	July 2012
<i>Temple Emanuel, Reisterstown, Maryland</i> Religious School teacher	September 2005- May 2010
<i>Temple Beth Israel, York, Pennsylvania</i> Religious School teacher	September 2003- May 2004

## Publications

Caryn Tamber-Rosenau, "Female Diplomats in Jewish Elephantine? A New Look at a Papyrus from the Yedaniah Archive." *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* 40 (2016): 491-510.

"Jedaiah," *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, 2016.

“Jediael,” *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, 2016.

*In press*: “The ‘Mothers’ Who Weren’t: Motherhood Imagery and Childless Women Warriors in Early Jewish Literature,” in *Images of Mothers in Jewish Culture* (ed. Jane Kanarek, Marjorie Lehman, and Simon J. Bronner), Oxford: Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 2017.

“The Biblical Bathing Beauty Who ‘Asked for It’: Bathsheba, Susanna, Judith, and the Manipulation of the Male Gaze.” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*.

*Submitted*: “Contributing Voice,” in *Judith* (Wisdom Commentary Series), Jennifer L. Koosed and Robert Seesengood, Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press.

“No Future for Bethulia? Judith, Childlessness, and the Futurism Question.” (Revision of conference paper for possible special issue of journal)

*In preparation*: “A Queer Critique of Looking for ‘Male’ and ‘Female’ Voices,” in *The Handbook of Feminist Approaches to the Hebrew Bible* (ed. Susanne Scholz), Oxford: Oxford University Press.

## **Conference Papers**

“‘Girls Would Seize His Spoil’: The Gendered Language in Pseudo-Philo’s Jael and Sisera Retelling,” Pseudepigrapha section of the Society of Biblical Literature, November 2017 annual meeting (forthcoming)

“No Future for Bethulia? Judith, Childlessness, and the Futurism Question,” LGBT/Queer Hermeneutics section of the Society of Biblical Literature, November 2016 annual meeting

“Un-gendering Texts: A Queer Critique of Looking for ‘Male’ and ‘Female’ Voices,” Women in the Biblical World section of the Society of Biblical Literature, November 2015 annual meeting

“‘If We Do Not Entice Her, She Will Laugh at Us’: Reading the Book of Judith’s Holofernes Queerly,” Hebrew Bible/Old Testament section of the Southeastern Conference for the Study of Religion, March 2015 annual meeting

“The Biblical Bathing Beauty Who Asked for It: Bathsheba, Susanna, Judith, and the Manipulation of the Male Gaze,” The Bible and Second Temple Literature section of the Association for Jewish Studies, December 2014 annual meeting, December 16, 2014

“Jewish Motherhood: Cultural Images and Practices from Antiquity to Modernity,” discussant in roundtable discussion, Association for Jewish Studies, December 2014 annual meeting, December 15, 2014

“Why Does the Levite Cast Out His Concubine? Reading Judges 19 as a Story of Intimate-Partner Violence,” Hebrew Bible/Old Testament section of the Southeastern Conference for the Study of Religion, March 2014 annual meeting, March 8, 2014

“Female Diplomats in Jewish Elephantine? A New Look at a Papyrus from the Jedaniah Archive,” Women in the Biblical World section of the Society of Biblical Literature, November 2013 annual meeting, November 26, 2013

“The Case for a Persian Date for the Prohibition of Intermarriage in Deuteronomy 7,” Deuteronomistic History section of the Society of Biblical Literature, November 2012 annual meeting, November 20, 2013

“The Bare-Headed Adulteress: What a Gesture Might Tell Us about the *Sotah* Ritual (Numbers 5:18),” Hebrew Bible/Old Testament section of The Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion, March 2012 annual meeting, March 5, 2012

### **Invited and Community Presentations**

June 2016: West End Synagogue, Nashville, Tennessee, Tikkun Leil Shavuot speaker, “The Lord has brought me back empty: (Un)welcoming the Stranger in the Book of Ruth”

February 2015: Vanderbilt University Jewish Studies department, Nashville, Tennessee, speaker for *Drink. Prey. Lust. Sexual Violence & The Book of Esther: A Teach-In*

June 2014: West End Synagogue, Nashville, Tennessee, Tikkun Leil Shavuot speaker, “Untold Tales of Sinai”

August 2013: West End Synagogue, Nashville, Tennessee, Sisterhood speaker, “How to Get a Head: Woman Warriors in Early Jewish Literature”

October 2011: West End United Methodist Church, Nashville, Tennessee, speaker about Judaism for youth group world religions unit

June 2011: West End Synagogue, Nashville, Tennessee, Tikkun Leil Shavuot speaker, “Asherah in the Desert”

### **Awards, Scholarships, and Grants**

New Faculty Research Program Grant  
*University of Houston* January 2017

Bettye R. Ford Graduate Student Service award,  
*Vanderbilt University* May 2015

Second place, Vanderbilt Graduate Student Council 3-Minute Thesis competition	April 2014
Idalee Friedman Award (yearly merit scholarship), <i>Baltimore Hebrew University/Towson University</i>	2007-2010
Beatrice Breitbart Fellowship (merit scholarship), <i>Baltimore Hebrew University</i>	2008-2009
Dean's List, <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>	2001 and 2002

## Languages

Reading knowledge of French, German, Modern Hebrew, Biblical Hebrew, Aramaic, Koine Greek, Classical Greek, and Latin

## Professional Affiliations and Service

Member, Society of Biblical Literature and Association for Jewish Studies

On-campus student liaison for Society of Biblical Literature, Vanderbilt University, 2010-2014

Hebrew Bible Bibliographer, Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, 2011-2015

## Writing Experience

Reporter	2003-2010
Legal Affairs Writer at <i>The Daily Record</i> , Baltimore, Maryland	2005-2010
Reporter at <i>The York Dispatch</i> , York, Pennsylvania	2003-2005
Reporting and writing intern during college years at <i>Worth</i> , <i>The New Republic</i> , <i>Lilith</i> , <i>Forward</i>	2000-2002

## Writing Awards

Won 17 awards for writing and reporting from national and regional press organizations, including 2010 2<sup>nd</sup> place in investigative/in-depth reporting, National Newspaper Association and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in series, Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association, both for "Fighting for Doc," an investigation into the circumstances of an elderly man's association with a group of criminals; and 2007 1<sup>st</sup> place in feature reporting, Sammy

award (Dolan Media) and 1<sup>st</sup> place in feature reporting, National Newspaper Association, both for “Unexpected Impact,” about the anti-death penalty activism of a woman whose husband was murdered