

Caryn Tamber-Rosenau

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Education

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee 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 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 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; Women in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament	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
Elementary Biblical Hebrew I and II	2013-2015
Elementary Modern Hebrew I	2013
Teaching Assistant for Hebrew Bible introductory courses	2010-2012

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, "The Biblical Bathing Beauty Who 'Asked for It': Bathsheba, Susanna, Judith, and the Manipulation of the Male Gaze." *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 33 (2017): 55-72.
- "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.

“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.

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)

“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.

In preparation: *Women in Drag: Gender and Performance in Biblical and Early Jewish Literature* (revision of author’s dissertation), Biblical Intersections series, Piscataway, N.J.: Gorgias Press.

Conference Papers

“The Torah on Trump: American Rabbinic Biblical Interpretation after the 2016 Election,” Jewish Interpretation of the Bible section of the Society of Biblical Literature, November 2017 annual meeting (forthcoming)

“‘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

“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

May 2018: Congregation Brith Shalom, Houston, Texas, Tikkun Leil Shavuot Speaker, “Untold Tales of Sinai”

February 2018: Yom Limmud, Houston, Texas, “Women and the Ten Commandments”

December 2017: Temple Sinai, Delray Beach, Florida, Scholar-in-Residence, “Scandalous Tales of the Maccabees” and “How to Get a Head: Woman Warriors in Early Jewish Literature”

December 2017: YESPrep charter school administrative offices, Houston, Texas, presentation on themes of religious inclusion in schools for Diversity Dialogues series

February 2017: Yom Limmud, Houston, Texas, “Biblical Bathing Beauties and the Manipulation of the Male Gaze”

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),
Baltimore Hebrew University/Towson University 2007-2010

Beatrice Breitbart Fellowship (merit scholarship),
Baltimore Hebrew University 2008-2009

Dean’s List, *University of Pennsylvania* 2001 and 2002

Languages

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

Professional Affiliations and Service

Fall 2017-present: Program-building activities for Jewish Studies, University of Houston

December 2017: Adjunct hiring committee, Religious Studies program, University of Houston

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 2nd place in investigative/in-depth reporting, National Newspaper Association and 2nd 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 1st place in feature reporting, Sammy award (Dolan Media) and 1st place in feature reporting, National Newspaper Association, both for “Unexpected Impact,” about the anti-death penalty activism of a woman whose husband was murdered