

WILLIAM ROBERT

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Department of Religion
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Syracuse University
Associate Professor, Department of Religion, 2016–present
Affiliated Faculty, Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, Program in
LGBT Studies, Program in Medieval and Renaissance Studies
Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, 2011–16
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, 2010–11
Humanities Postdoctoral Faculty Fellow, Department of Religion, 2006–10
Louisiana State University
Instructor, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, 2005–06
University of California, Santa Barbara
Teaching Associate, Department of Religious Studies, 2002–05

EDUCATION

PhD Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2005
Doctoral Exams
Philosophy of Religion, History of Christianity, Medieval Mysticism
and Its Modern Readers, Religion and Social Thought
Dissertation
“Crossing: Simone Weil, Mystics, Politics”
MA Religion, University of Chicago Divinity School, 1999
MA Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities, University of Chicago, 1997
BA Philosophy and Literature (high honors), Davidson College, 1996

AWARDS, 2010–PRESENT

Folger Institute Colloquium (Teaching Medieval Drama and Performance), 2016–17
Syracuse University Humanities Center Faculty Fellowship, 2015
National Endowment for the Humanities Enduring Questions Course Grant, 2012–13

PUBLICATIONS, 2010–PRESENT

Books
Revivals: Of Antigone (State University of New York Press, 2015)
Trials: Of Antigone and Jesus (Fordham University Press, 2010)
Journal Articles
“Nude, Glorious, Living,” *Political Theology* 14.1 (2013): 115–30
“Performing Religiously between Passion and Resistance,” *Journal for Cultural and
Religious Theory* 12.2 (2012): 69–84
“A Mystic Impulse: From Apophatics to Decreation in Pseudo-Dionysius, Meister
Eckhart, and Simone Weil,” *Medieval Mystical Theology* 21.1 (2012): 113–32

“Antigone’s Nature,” *Hypatia* 25.2 (2010): 412–36

Book Chapter

“To Live, by Grace,” *Living Together: Jacques Derrida’s Communities of Violence and Peace*, ed. Elisabeth Weber (Fordham University Press, 2013), 153–67

Invited Essays

“Concerning Method: On Narratives and Names,” *Syndicate Theology* (2015)

“All About Glory,” *Political Theology* (2012)

“Nike Free,” *Frequencies: A Genealogy of Spirituality*, ed. Kathryn Lofton and John Lardas Modern (2011)

Reference Articles

“Augustine,” “Michel Foucault,” and “Søren Kierkegaard,” *Encyclopedia of Global Religion*, ed. Mark Juergensmeyer and Wade Clark Roof (Sage Publications, 2011), 83, 408–10, 663–64

Book Reviews

Review of Colin Jager, *Unquiet Things: Secularism in the Romantic Age* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015), *Journal of Religion* 97.2 (2017): 281–82

Review of Noëlle Vahanian, *The Rebellious No: Variations on a Secular Theology of Language* (Fordham University Press, 2014), *Journal of Religion* 96.4 (2016): 583–84

Review of Martin Hägglund, *Radical Atheism: Derrida and the Time of Life* (Stanford University Press, 2008), *Sophia* 49.1 (2010): 173–75

CONFERENCE PAPERS, 2010–PRESENT

“Engendering Vulnerability,” American Academy of Religion, November 2017

“Ways and Means,” American Academy of Religion, November 2017

“Signs and Presents,” South Atlantic Modern Language Association, November 2017

“Michel Foucault’s True Love,” American Academy of Religion, November 2016

“Seeing Nudity Anew,” Religious Studies Symposium, University of Oxford, England, December 2014

“Mystifying Queer Genealogies,” American Academy of Religion, November 2014

“Writing Monks, Rewriting Humans, or Reading William of Saint Thierry to the Letter,” International Medieval Congress, Leeds, England, July 2014

“Reviving Antigone,” Luce Irigaray Circle, University of Bergen, Norway, June 2013

“Singular Plural Sacrality,” American Academy of Religion, November 2011

“Namely, Mystical Desire,” Eastern International Regional American Academy of Religion, May 2011

“Future Blindness,” Postmodernism, Culture, and Religion: The Future of Continental Philosophy of Religion, Syracuse University, April 2011

“Queerly Mystical,” Medieval Voices and Postmodern Theory, University of California, Santa Barbara, March 2011

“The Sense of Passion,” American Academy of Religion, November 2010

“Passion, in the Feminine: Angela of Foligno’s Mystical Erotics,” Passions and Transgressions from Late Antiquity to the Renaissance, Syracuse University, April 2010

INVITED PRESENTATIONS, 2010–PRESENT

“The Mystical Passions of Angela of Foligno,” Le Moyne College, November 2017

“Performing, Transforming,” Center for Religious Studies, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany, June 2017

- “Humanities *In Extremis*,” Le Moyne College, May 2017
 “How About Religion,” Syracuse University Theta Alpha Kappa, April 2016
 “Attending to Sappho,” Le Moyne College, February 2016
 “How Do You Solve a Problem Like Angela of Foligno?,” Syracuse University Program in
 Medieval and Renaissance Studies, April 2015
 “Porosity and Sensuality,” Syracuse University Humanities Center, February 2015
 “Extreme Humanities,” Le Moyne College, February 2015
 “Genre Questioning Songs of Songs,” University of Oxford, England, November 2014
 “Une question de rapports,” Institut Catholique de Paris, France, November 2014
 “Mystical Lips and Other Sexual Differences,” University of Chicago Divinity School, May
 2014
 “Denuding Angela of Foligno,” Harvard Divinity School, April 2013
 “Remnants: Of Giorgio Agamben,” Harvard Divinity School, April 2013
 “Why Graduate School?” Syracuse University McNair Scholars Program, July 2012
 “A Commencement, A Moment, A Question,” Syracuse University Phi Beta Kappa, May
 2012
 Respondent to Aaron Vlasak’s paper “Plato’s Cosmopolitan Ideal: Philosophical Exile,”
 Syracuse University Humanities Center, March 2012
 “The Journey of Research,” Syracuse University McNair Scholars Program, October 2011

COURSES TAUGHT, 2010–PRESENT

- What Is Belief?
 Religion and Its Critics
 Introduction to the Study of Religion
 Ecstasy, Transgression, Religion
 Sexualities, Genders, Bodies
 Belief and the Body
 Performing Religion
 Medieval Christianities
 Queerly Religious
 Advanced Religion Seminar: Questioning Religion
 Textual Bodies in the Study of Religion: Extraordinary, Exposed Bodies
 Textual Bodies in the Study of Religion: Foucault’s Sexuality
 Continental Philosophy of Religion
 Sensuality, Sexuality, Religion
 Religious Corporealities

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, 2010–PRESENT

- Department of Religion
 Undergraduate Committee, 2011–12, 2017–18
 Future Professoriate Program Director, 2012–14, 2015–16
 Graduate Committee, 2012–14, 2015–16
 Graduate Admissions Committee, 2013, 2014, 2016
 Search Committee in Ancient Christianities, 2012–13
 Future Professoriate Program Workshop Speaker, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014,
 2015, 2016
 College of Arts and Sciences
 Strategic Planning Steering Committee, 2016–17
 Chair, Strategic Planning Working Group on Research and Discovery, 2017

Coronat Scholars Selection Committee, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018
 Faculty Speaker, Board of Visitors Meeting, 2015, 2016
 Faculty Speaker, Receptions for Prospective Student Recruitment (Fall 2011,
 Summer 2013, Fall 2013, Fall 2015) and for Admitted Student Recruitment
 (Spring 2012, Spring 2013, Spring 2014)
 Undergraduate Advisor, 2011–13
 First-Year and Transfer Forum Instructor, 2010, 2011 2012, 2013
 Veteran's Roundtable, First-Year Forum Workshop, 2011, 2012
 Committee on Student Standards Academic Integrity Hearing Panel, 2012
 Co-organizer, Humanities Postdoctoral Faculty Fellows Program Orientation, 2010

Syracuse University

Humanities Center Faculty Advisory Board, 2013–14, 2016–18
 Humanities Centers Faculty Fellowship Selection Committee, 2017
 Faculty Leader, Certificate of University Teaching Seminar on Lesson Planning, 2017
 Honors Orientation Seminar Instructor, 2015, 2016
 Organizer, “Porosity, Sensuality, Relation: Rethinking Religion's Terms,” Humanities
 Center Faculty Fellow Symposium, 2015
 Syracuse Symposium Speaker Selection Committee, 2014
 Judith Seinfeld Student Fellowship Selection Committee, 2014
 Fulbright Fellowship Application Committee, 2012, 2013
 Faculty Speaker, Receptions for Admitted Student Recruitment, 2012 (Baltimore),
 2013 (Baltimore and Washington, DC)
 McNair Scholars Program Faculty Mentor, 2011–12

Additional

President, Theta Chi Beta chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa, 2015–present
 Mentor, American Academy of Religion, 2016–17
 Co-director, Sacred Literature, Secular Religion: A Conference on Cultural Practices,
 2015
 Co-director, The Return of the Text: A Conference on the Cultural Value of Close
 Reading, 2013

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

American Academy of Religion
 Luce Irigaray Circle
 Medieval Academy of America
 Modern Language Association
 Society for Phenomenological and Existential Philosophy