

Stephanie Frank

Chicago, IL • 312.730.6602 (c) • writeto@stephaniefrank.me

Education

Ph.D., History of Religions, University of Chicago, winter 2015
Dissertation: “Secularizing Moral Motivation: the Durkheimians’ forgotten project”
Supervisor: Bruce Lincoln; readers: Marcel Fournier, Kathryn Tanner
M.Phil., Philosophical Theology (concentration: ethics), Oxford University, 2003
Thesis: “*Acceptatio, ordinatio* : original justice and atonement in Scotus and Aquinas”
Supervisor: Richard Swinburne
B.A., religion and political theory, Williams College, 2001, *summa cum laude*
Thesis: “Observations on Metaphors and Gifts”
Supervisor: Bill Darrow

Professional Appointments

Instructor, Religious Studies, Loyola University Chicago, spring 2026

Associate Professor of Instruction in Religion and Humanities, Columbia College Chicago, 2017-2025

Lecturer in Religion and Humanities, Columbia College Chicago, 2012-2017

Hired to build the College’s first religion curriculum in an interdisciplinary department oriented towards providing a liberal-arts education to students interested in careers in the arts; sole full-time faculty member in the study of religion

Religious studies courses created, designed and taught:

World Religions (replaced by “Religion in Today’s World” at earliest opportunity)
Religion in Today’s World
Religion and Gender
Introduction to Ritual Studies
Religion and its Critics
Religion in U.S. Law and Politics
Theory of Religion through Film
Religion in Chicago
Religion and Violence
Christianity, Capitalism, Empire

Humanities/History courses designed and taught:

Western Humanities: or, a brief history of the self
Introduction to Gender Studies
Ethics and the Good Life
History of Modern Europe

Lecturer, Religion (“The Problems of Secularism”), Graham School of Continuing Education, University of Chicago, spring 2012

Won opportunity to teach self-designed class to non-traditional students

Lecturer, Humanities (“Human Being and Citizen”), University of Chicago, 2009-2011

Held complete responsibility for one section of University’s famed Great Books class; received excellent student evaluations

Publications: Peer-reviewed Articles

“The ‘Force in the Thing’: Mauss’ Non-Authoritarian Ethics in *The Gift*,” in *Hau: A Journal of Anthropology* (November 2016).

“The General Will Beyond Rousseau: Sieyès’ Theological Arguments for the Sovereignty of the Revolutionary National Assembly,” *History of European Ideas* 37 (spring 2011).

“Re-imagining the Public Sphere: Malebranche, Schmitt’s *Hamlet*, and the Lost Theatre of Sovereignty,” *Telos* 153 (Winter 2010).

Publications: Contributions to Edited Volumes

“Secularization and sovereignty: shifts in the politics-theology relation,” in *Images of Sovereignty*, ed. Neil Walker and Bas Leijssenaar (Cambridge, 2019).

“The Study of Religion and the Limits of Transparency,” in *Irreverence and the Sacred: Essays in Honor of Bruce Lincoln*, ed. Hugh Urban and Gregory B. Johnson (Oxford, 2018).

“Myths of France, Periodization, and Sovereign Power,” in *Fabricating Difference*, ed. Steven Ramey (Equinox, 2017).

“Justificatory Arguments Theological and Political: Two Senses of ‘Secularization’,” in *Herrschaftsordnung und Religion: Theologiepolitische und sakrale Rechtfertigungsnarrative in Spätmittelalter und Früher Neuzeit*, ed. Therese Schwager (Duncker & Humblot, 2011).

“Permutations of the Theological-Political Analogy: Political Voluntarism, ‘Transfer,’ and Secularization,” in *Fragments of Religion: Sacred and Secular Agency in Early Modern France*, ed. Sanja Perovic (Continuum, 2011).

Publications: Pedagogy

“Emotion and Teaching Religion,” *Craft of Teaching Blog*, University of Chicago Divinity School, 13 July 2017.

“Beyond Expertise: Modeling Learning in the Undergraduate Classroom,” *Craft of Teaching Blog*, University of Chicago Divinity School, 10 March 2017.

“Teaching in the Aftermath,” *Craft of Teaching Blog*, University of Chicago Divinity School, 14 November 2016.

Publications: Web-based

"We May Be Sacrificing Our Children to the God of the Gun — But It's Not That the God Requires the Deaths," *Religion Dispatches*, 13 June 2022.

"Sovereignty and Sacrifice," "Theologies of American Exceptionalism" web forum, *The Immanent Frame*, 13 March 2017.

"Regulating symbols: the burkini and niqab bans in France," *The Immanent Frame*, 7 September 2016.

"The Study of Religion and Responses to Terrorism: Paris, Beirut and Beyond," Parts I and II, *Religion Bulletin*, 7 and 9 December 2015.

"Greece must pay its debt in suffering: A Nietzschean reading of the Euro crisis," *Religion Dispatches*, 22 July 2015.

"Laïcité and the *Charlie Hebdo* Killings," *Religion Dispatches*, 26 January 2015.

Publications: Reviews (selected)

Review of David Martin, *Religion and Power*, in *Religious Studies Review* (spring 2016).

Review of G. K. Noyer (ed.), *Voltaire's Revolution: Writings from His Campaign to Free Laws from Religion*, in *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (spring 2016).

Review of Victoria Kahn, *The Future of Illusion*, in *Review of Politics* (summer 2015).

Review of *The Sacred in Twentieth-Century Politics*, ed. Roger Griffin, Robert Mallett and John Tortorice, in *International Social Science Journal* (Winter 2010).

Awards and Fellowships

Faculty Development Grant, Columbia College Chicago, fall 2014

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute, "The Meanings of Property," Marist College, June 2014

Special Stipend, University of Chicago Divinity School, 2011-2012

Chave Dissertation Fellow, University of Chicago, 2010-2011

Seminar participant, "Religion in Public Life," Institut für Wissenschaft des Menschen, Cortona, Italy, summer 2009 (declined)

Dissertation Fellow, Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion, 2009-2010

France Chicago Center Summer Research Fellowship, 2009

Tyng Fellow, University of Chicago/Williams College, 2006-2009

Joseph Kitagawa Fellow, University of Chicago, 2003-2006

fellowship granted to exceptional incoming student in History of Religions

Donovan-Moody Fellow, Oxford University, 2001-2003

fellowship granted on extremely competitive basis to fund two years of study at Oxford

Academic service

Chair, Teaching-Track Faculty Caucus, Columbia College Chicago, 2023-2025

Member, AI Task Force, Columbia College Chicago, 2023-2025

Secretary, Columbia College Chicago Faculty Senate, 2022-2023

Member, Statement of Policy Committee, Columbia College Chicago, 2022-2023

Co-founder, Visiting Experts' Network, March 2020-present (<https://ven.netlify.app/>)

Co-founded organization to coordinate guest Zoom lectures from scholars in the humanities and social sciences in the era of pandemic teaching

Co-convenor, "Teaching and scholarship in the post-truth era," American Academy of Religion, Boston, November 2017.

Co-founder, "Teaching in the Aftermath," 2016-present

Co-founded online group for the exchange of pedagogy ideas in the wake of the 2016 election; currently boasts approximately 1500 members

Pedagogy blogger, University of Chicago Divinity School Craft of Teaching Program, 2016-2017

Co-convenor/presenter, "The Study of Religion and Responses to Terrorism: Paris, Beirut, and Beyond," American Academy of Religion, November 2015.

Coordinator, Gender Studies Minor, Columbia College Chicago, 2013-2015

Advised students on course selection; collaborated on curriculum and scheduling decisions; coordinated transfer credits; planned supplemental programming; increased size of program by 100%

Coordinator, Transfer Equivalency Initiative, Humanities, History, and Social Sciences, Columbia College, 2013

Reviewed courses at feeder institutions and assigned relevant transfer credit, working in conjunction with department chair and Dean's office

Member, Host Committee, "Beyond Disciplinarity: Interventions in Cultural Studies and the Arts," Cultural Studies Association National Conference, Chicago, May 2013

Member, Honors Curriculum Working Group, Columbia College, 2012-2014

Editorial Assistant, University of Chicago Press, *History of Religions*, 2006-2009

Served as liaison between authors, press, and editors; responsible for all editing

Founder/Director, Oxford University Writing Workshop, 2002-2003

Founded and ran a volunteer-based peer-tutoring writing workshop to provide a resource in the wake of Oxford's programme to accept students from all educational backgrounds

Invited Lectures

"Australian Aborigines, the French Revolution, and the Niqab Ban: Durkheim's Ambivalence About Symbols and its Legacy for Theorizing Religion in Contemporary Politics," University of Chicago Divinity School, February 2018.

"What is Political Theology?" Loyola University (Chicago, Illinois), February 2018.

"Secularization and sovereignty: shifts in the politics-theology relation," Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Leuven, Belgium), June 2017 (keynote).

“Secular Sin? Mauss’ Use of Augustinian Theology in *The Gift*,” Skidmore College (Saratoga Springs, New York), February 2016.

“A New Agenda for Methods and Theory in the Study of Religion,” Princeton University Religion Department Colloquium (Princeton, New Jersey), March 2015.

“Three Senses of Secularization,” Quest University (Squamish, British Columbia), January 2014.

“Mauss’ Vision of Sociality Without Authority in *The Gift*,” Cultural Studies Colloquium, Columbia College Chicago, May 2, 2013.

Selected International Presentations

“The ‘force in the thing’: Mauss’ alternative to the critique of the commodity in the *Essai sur le don*,” Society for French Historical Studies, Montréal, Canada, April 2014

“The Problem of Intellectual-Historical Secularization: Schmitt and Blumenberg’s Shared Horizon of Historical Inquiry,” at “Radical Secularization?” University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium, September 2012

“Lévi-Strauss on the Origins of Language: Anthropology v. Theology,” at “Lévi-Strauss and the Challenge of Interdisciplinarity,” Institute for the Public Life of Arts and Ideas, McGill University, Montréal, Canada, September 2010

“As the Church is to God, so the National Assembly is to France: Malebranche, Sieyès, and the theory of representation in the French Revolution,” at “Politics, Faith, and Reason: Political Thought and Intellectual History,” Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK, March 2010

“Retrieving ‘Representation’: Schmitt, Sieyès, and the ambiguous relationship between the aesthetic and the political,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Montréal, Quebec, November 2009

“As the Church is to God, so the National Assembly is to France: Parallels in the Justificatory Narratives of Malebranche and Sieyès,” at “Normative Ordnungen: Rechtfertigung und Sanktion,” Goethe Universität, Frankfurt, Germany, October 2009

“Beyond Sovereignty: political theology and enchanted ‘representation’ in c17-c18 France,” at “Sacred Modernities: Rethinking Modernity in a Post-Secular Age,” Oxford, UK, September 2009

“Mauss, from Sacrifice to Gift: A French Post-Theology for the Third Republic,” at the International Association for the History of Religions Annual Meeting, Brno, Czech Republic, September 2008

Chair, Panel Discussion: “Reconsidering Identities: Religion, Nation and Politics,” at the International Association for the History of Religions Annual Meeting, Brno, Czech Republic, September 2008

Selected National Presentations

Convener and Speaker, “Religious Diversity and DEI Initiatives: Problems and Possibilities,” American Academy of Religion, Denver, November 2022

“Durkheimianism unveiled: The discourse around the niqab ban in France,” American Academy of Religion, Boston, November 2017.

Presenter/participant, “The University in the Age of Trump” Roundtable, University of Illinois at Chicago/Columbia College Chicago, November 2016.

“The Limits of Transparency and the Study of Religion,” at “Irreverence and the Sacred,” University of Chicago, November 2016.

Presenter/participant, “Theologies of U.S. Exceptionalism,” Northwestern University/Indiana University, October 2016.

Co-convener/presenter, “The Study of Religion and Responses to Terrorism: Paris, Beirut, and Beyond,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2015.

“Secularization and Universal History,” Telos/Paul Piccone Institute Conference, New York, New York, February 2015.

“On Elizabeth Pritchard’s *Religion in Public*,” National Association for the Academic Study of Religion, San Diego, California, November 2014

“Mauss’ Vision of Sociality Without Authority in *The Gift*,” lecture at Cultural Studies Colloquium, Columbia College Chicago, May 2, 2013

Convener/commentator, author-meets-reader panel on Kathleen Davis’ book, *Periodization and Sovereignty*, AAR Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California, November 2011

“Using theology to undo theology: Mauss’ subversion of Augustinian moral psychology in *The Gift*,” AAR Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California, November 2011

“The Limits of Rationality and Transparency: ‘Australian Totemism’ and Moral Authority in Durkheim’s *Elementary Forms*,” at AAR Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2010

“Rethinking the Theological-Political Analogy: ‘representation’ in c17-c18 France,” at “We have never been secular,” New School for Social Research, New York, April 2010

"Justificatory Polemics Theological and Political: Analogous Formations in the Arguments of Malebranche and the National Assembly," at “Religion in French History and Literature,” Franke Center for the Humanities, Chicago, Illinois, February 2008

Languages

French (reading, writing, speaking); German (reading, writing); Latin (reading)