

Stephanie Frank

Chicago, IL · writeto@stephaniefrank.me · linkedin.com/in/stephaniefrank · stephaniefrank.me

PROFILE

Researcher, writer, and consultant on AI, higher education, and the future of liberal-arts education. Trained as a historian of religions, I bring expertise in how new frameworks of thought borrow authority from the traditions they claim to have superseded — combined with thirteen years of ground-level curriculum-building experience and a track record of organizing effective responses to institutional and political crisis.

Areas: AI & Higher Education · AI Discourse & Political Theology · Liberal-Arts Curriculum & Pedagogy · Community Organizing · Public Writing

EXPERIENCE

Writer & Consultant · *Independent*

2025 — present

- Writing and consulting on AI, higher education, and the future of liberal-arts education.
- *The Theology of Tech Bros* — book project. Traces the genealogy from Schmitt and Girard through Thiel's network and its geopolitical effects. Proposal complete.
- Essays in progress: "The Deliverables Problem"; on Silicon Valley's claim to temporal sovereignty.

Faculty · *Columbia College Chicago*

2012 — 2025

- Designed and built the institution's first religious studies curriculum — thirteen courses across religion, law, politics, history, and culture — taught to thousands of students in arts and media disciplines.
- **Chair, Teaching-Track Faculty Caucus (AAUP), 2023–2025:** Led faculty response to financial exigency and 25% faculty reduction. Coordinated student advocacy campaign.
- **Secretary, Faculty Senate, 2022–2023:** Led initiatives on faculty of color recruitment, shared governance, and budget transparency.
- Grew Gender Studies Minor by 100% as program coordinator, 2013–2015.

Instructor · *University of Chicago*

2009 — 2012

- "Human Being and Citizen" (Great Books), 2009–2011. Held complete responsibility for one section of the University's foundational Great Books course.
- "The Problems of Secularism," Graham School of Continuing Education, Spring 2012. Self-designed course for non-traditional students.

Instructor · *Loyola University Chicago*

Spring 2026

- Introduction to Religious Studies.

COMMUNITY BUILDING & CIVIC ORGANIZING

Teaching in the Aftermath

2016 — present · ~1,500 members

Co-founded community of educators sharing resources for teaching humanities in the aftermath of the 2016 election. ~1,500 members. Founded Teaching After Roe spinoff (2022).

Visiting Experts' Network

2020 — present · 700 academics

Built a network of 700 academics available to guest-lecture in each other's classes via Zoom. [ven.netlify.app](#)

Operation Lemonade

2017 · ~\$100,000 raised

Fundraising campaign adjacent to white supremacist marches — donations to anti-racist causes per marcher. Raised ~\$100,000 in MA and CA. Covered by ThinkProgress.

The Daily Constitutional

2016 — 2019 · 3,000+ members

National civic action group: one specific daily intervention to defend constitutional governance during the Trump administration.

SELECTED WRITING

- *The Theology of Tech Bros* — book manuscript, proposal complete.
- "The 'Force in the Thing': Mauss' Non-Authoritarian Ethics in *The Gift*." *Hau: A Journal of Anthropology*, 2016.
- "The General Will Beyond Rousseau." *History of European Ideas*, 2011.
- "Re-imagining the Public Sphere." *Telos*, 2010.

- Contributions to *Images of Sovereignty* (Cambridge UP, 2019), *Irreverence and the Sacred* (Oxford UP, 2018), *Fabricating Difference* (Equinox, 2017).
- Public essays in *Religion Dispatches* (2015, 2022) and *The Immanent Frame* / SSRC (2016, 2017).
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., History of Religions · University of Chicago, 2015 · Supervisor: Bruce Lincoln

M.Phil., Philosophical Theology (ethics) · Oxford University, 2003 · Supervisor: Richard Swinburne

B.A., Religion and Political Theory · Williams College, 2001 · *Summa cum laude*

FELLOWSHIPS & RECOGNITION

NEH Summer Institute Fellow · Martin Marty Center Dissertation Fellow, U of Chicago · France Chicago Center Fellowship · Donovan-Moody Fellowship, Oxford · Joseph Kitagawa Fellowship, U of Chicago