

# DEBORAH L. FORGER

Curriculum Vitae  
December 1, 2023

## APPOINTMENTS

- 2022–*current* Lecturer and Research Fellow. Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. Department of Middle East Studies. University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2021–*current* Visiting Research Scholar. Jewish Studies Program. Dartmouth College. Hanover, NH.
- 2021–2022 Postdoctoral Research Fellow. Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. Department of Middle East Studies. University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2018–2021 Postdoctoral Research Fellow. Jewish Studies Program. Dartmouth College. Hanover, NH.
- 2017–2018 Institute Fellow. Frankel Institute for Judaic Studies. University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI.

## EDUCATION

- 2017 Ph.D., Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
- 2012 M.A., Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
- 2007 M.Div., Duke Divinity School, Duke University, Durham, summa cum laude.
- 2003 B.S., Biology and Psychology, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, summa cum laude.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

In Preparation. *The Knowing Body: God's Form in Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity*. Estimated completion date: August 2024.

In Preparation. *God's Body: Divine Embodiment in the Hebrew Bible, Ancient Judaism, and the New Testament*. Co-edited with Brittany Wilson. Estimated completion date: December 2025.

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- In Preparation. "Could Oral Remembrances of Jesus's Words Link the PsCl *Homilies* to Rabbinic Judaism?"
- In Preparation. "John within Judaism? God's Body as a Test Case."
- 2022 "The Eye, the Sense of Sight, and Seeing God: Reflections on God's (In)Visibility in Light of Early Jewish-Christian Relations." *Ancient Jew Review*.
- 2020 "Jesus as God's Word(s): Aurality, Epistemology, and Embodiment in the Gospel of John." *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* 42.3 (2020): 274–302.
- 2020 "God Made Manifest: Josephus, Idolatry, and Divine Images in Flavian Rome." *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 51 (2020): 231-260.
- 2018 "Divine Embodiment in Philo of Alexandria." *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 49.2 (2018): 223–262.
- 2016 "Interpreting the Syrophoenician Woman to Construct Jewish-Christian Fault Lines: John Chrysostom and the Pseudo-Clementine Homilist in Chrono-Locational Perspective," *Journal of the Jesus Movement in its Jewish Setting* 3 (2016): 132–166.

### Book Chapters and Essays.

- In Preparation. "Textual Issues and Specific Readings in John 7:1-8:59." *T & T Clark Handbook of Johannine Studies*.
- 2023 "Christianity and Antisemitism," with Susannah Heschel. In *The Routledge History of Antisemitism*, ed. Mark Weitzman, Robert J. Williams, and James Wald. Routledge.
- 2021 "The Pharisees in Modern Scholarship," with Susannah Heschel. In *The Pharisees and Their History of Interpretation*, ed. Amy-Jill Levine and Joseph Sievers, Eerdmans.
- 2020 "Parchment Packages in the Digital Classroom," *Ancient Jew Review*. August 26, 2020.
- 2018 "Bodies." In *Jews and the Material in Antiquity*, eds. C. Mike Chin and Chaya Halberstam. Frankel Institute Annual. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (2018): 13–15.
- 2013 "Shifting Views of Heaven, Hell, and the Afterlife in the Second Century CE," in *Heaven, Hell, and Afterlife: Eternity in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam and Other Interesting Traditions*, vol. 2. Ed. J. Harold Ellens; Westport, CT: ABC-CLIO Praeger (2013): 61–81.

### Book Reviews

- 2018 Review of C.D. Elledge. *Resurrection of the Dead in Early Judaism*. 200 BCE–CE 200. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017. *AJS Review*.
- 2013 Review of Paula Fredriksen. *Sin: The Early History of an Idea*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012. 208 pp. *Reviews of the Enoch Seminar*.
- 2012 Review of Yonder Moynihan Gillihan. *Civic Ideology, Organization, and Law in the Rule Scrolls: A Comparative Study of the Covenanters' Sect and Contemporary Voluntary Associations*. Leiden: Brill, 2012. xxvii + 614 pp. *Henoch* 34 (2012): 178–80.
- 2011 Review of Robert Alan Kraft. *Exploring the Scripturesque: Jewish Texts and their Christian Contexts*. Supplements to the Journal of the Study of Judaism, 137. Leiden: Brill, 2009. 288 pp. *Henoch* 33 (2011): 145–47.

### Web-Based Encyclopedia Articles & Notes

- 2014 Lessons Learned from the Search for Academic Funding. Guest Blog Post. Rackham Graduate Newsletter. University of Michigan.

### GRANT, AWARDS, FELLOWSHIP, AND HONORS

- 2023 Biblical Archeological Society. Contributed a Chapter to A.J. Levine and Joseph Sievers, eds. *The Pharisees* (Oxford: Oxford University Press), which was named Best Book in New Testament Studies.
- 2022–2023 Gilbert Whitaker Pedagogy Grant. University of Michigan.
- 2020–2021 Leslie Center for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship. Dartmouth College.
- 2017–2018 Frankel Fellow. Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies. University of Michigan.
- 2014–2017 Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fellowship
- 2016 Frankel Center Summer Fellowship for Research in Europe, Israel, or Latin American, University of Michigan.
- 2014–2015 Gayle Morris Sweetland Center for Writing Junior Fellow, University of Michigan, (declined).
- 2014–2015 Rackham Humanities Research Fellowship, University of Michigan, (declined).
- 2013–2014 Lipschutz, Host, Smith Graduate Fellowship, University of Michigan.
- 2012–2013 Radcliffe/Ramsdell Fellowship, University of Michigan.
- 2012–2013 Michigan Center for the Study of Early Christianity Graduate Fellowship.
- 2013 Stanley Frankel Center for Judaic Studies Travel Fellowship, University of Michigan.
- 2013 Rackham Travel Grant, University of Michigan.

- 2012–2013 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor, Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan.
- 2011–2012 Michigan Center for the Study of Early Christianity Graduate Student Award, University of Michigan.
- 2010–2012 Center for Faith and Scholarship Graduate Fellowship, Multi-Year, University of Michigan.
- 2010–2011 The Lilly Foundation Vocational Friendship Grant, University of Michigan.
- 2009–2010 Presbyterian Women Graduate Study Scholarship, University of Michigan.
- 2008 Collegeville Institute Writing Workshop Invited Participant, Collegeville, MN.
- 2007–2009 Lilly Foundation Residency in Ministry, Multi-Year Fellowship, First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor.
- 2006 Dorot Foundation Travel Grant, Duke University.
- 2006 Divinity Student Council International Travel Fellowship, Duke University.
- 2006–2007 The Duke Grant Merit Scholarship, Duke University.
- 2005–2006 Cushman Memorial Scholarship, Duke University.
- 2005–2007 W. B. Small Trust Scholarship, Duke University.
- 2004–2005 The Duke Grant Merit Scholarship, Duke University.
- 2004–2005 Fred W. Bradshaw Scholarship, Duke University.
- 2004–2005 Divinity Scholarship, Duke University.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### University of Michigan, Frankel Center for Judaic Studies/Department of Middle East Studies, Ann Arbor, MI

- Fall 2024 *How Religions are Born: The Origins of Judaism & Christianity*  
*Jewish & Christian Women in the Ancient Mediterranean World*
- Winter 2024 *Introduction to the New Testament*
- Fall 2023 *Jewish and Christian Women in the Ancient Mediterranean World*  
*The Bible as a Material Object*
- Fall, Win 2023 *How Religions are Born: The Origins of Judaism and Christianity*
- Fall, Win 2023 *The Bible as a Material Object*

### Dartmouth College, Department of Religion & Jewish Studies Program, Hanover, NH

- Spr & Sum 2020 *The Jewish Jesus*
- Fall 2021 *Introduction to the New Testament (declined due to new academic appointment)*
- Winter 2022 *The Parting(s) of the Ways between Judaism and Christianity (declined due to new academic appointment)*

### University of Michigan, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Ann Arbor, MI

- Spring 2015 *Jesus and the Gospels (Primary Instructor)*
- Spring 2015 *The Land of Israel/Palestine through the Ages (Graduate Student Instructor, GSI)*
- Winter 2013 *Christianity after the New Testament (GSI)*
- Fall 2012 *Jesus and the Gospels (GSI)*
- Winter 2011, 2013 *Introduction to the New Testament (GSI)*

## Renk Theological Seminary, Renk, Sudan

Summer 2007

*Introduction to Koine Greek*

### INVITED TALKS

- 2021 “The Embodied God in Ancient Jewish Tradition.” New Directions in Jewish Studies Lectures. University of California, Davis. Apr 14.
- 2019 “Aurality, Epistemology, and Embodiment in the Gospel of John.” Boston University. Boston, MA. November 4.
- 2018 “The Embodied Nature of Jesus’s *λόγοι* in the Gospel of John.” Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies. University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI. November 15.
- 2017 “The Jewish Milieu of John’s Incarnate Christ.” University of Texas at Austin. Texas. May 21.
- 2016 “Divine Embodiment in Jewish Antiquity.” McMaster University. Hamilton, Ontario. December 13.
- 2015 “God’s Embodiment and the Gospel of John.” Georgia State University. Atlanta, Georgia. May 4.
- 2015 “The Gospel of John’s Paradoxical Relationship to Judaism.” Albion College. Albion, Michigan. November 6.

### CAMPUS TALKS

- 2020 “The Body of God in Jewish Antiquity.” Jewish Studies Seminar Series. Dartmouth College. Hanover, NH. November 10.
- 2019 “Was Jesus Really Jewish? Notes from the Front Lines of Scholarship.” Leon Black Lecture Series. Dartmouth College. Hanover, NH. July 30
- 2018 “Vespasian.” Frankel + Kelsey Event. Kelsey Museum of Archeology. University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI. November 28.
- 2016 “Bach’s St. John’s Passion in Historical Perspective: How Bach Underscores Differences between the Gospel of John and the Synoptics in his Music.” University of Michigan Musical Society. Pre-performance Panel. University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI. March 15.
- 2016 “The De-Gendering of Divine *Sophia*. Seminar Series in Judaic Studies. Ann Arbor, MI. April 15.
- 2014 “The Jewish High Priest: Mediator of the Divine. Seminar Series in Hellenistic Judaism.” Ann Arbor, MI. December 5.
- 2013 “Was Philo of Alexandria *Really* a Monotheist? A Test Case of the ‘So-Called’ Monotheism of Second Temple Judaism.” Near Eastern Studies Graduate Student Colloquium. Ann Arbor, MI. February 23.

### CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

#### Conferences Organized

- 2025 God’s Body in the Hebrew Bible, New Testament, and Early Christianity. Nangeroni Meeting. Enoch Seminar. Italy. June (In preparation).
- 2021 Christianity and Science Fiction. Michigan Center for Early Christian Studies. On-line Conference. Oct. 11–12.
- 2021 Graduate Enoch Seminar. On-line Conference. April 29–30.
- 2016 John the Jew: Reading the Gospel of John’s Christology as a Form of Jewish Messianism. Nangeroni Meeting. Camaldoli, Italy. June 19–24.

## Colloquium Organized

- 2019 The Gospel of John: Anti-Jewish or Radical Jewish Sectarianism? Enoch Seminar. Pre-SBL Colloquium. San Diego, CA. Nov. 22.

## Papers Presented

- 2023 "The Johannine Jesus and God's Fluid Body." Society of Biblical Literature Annual meeting. San Antonio, TX. Nov. 19.
- 2022 "God Gazing: Reflections on the Relationship between God's (In)Visibility and (In)Corporeality." Seminar on Visuality in Jewish Greek Literature. University of Cambridge. Cambridge, UK. July 1415.
- 2022 "The Luminous-Bodies of God." Studies in Second Temple Judaism: A Global Enterprise. Enoch Seminar. International Online Conference. Jan. 10-13.
- 2021 "The Eye, the Sense of Sight, and Seeing God: Reflections on God's (In)Visibility in Light of Early Jewish-Christian Relations." Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. San Antonio, TX. Nov. 20-23.
- 2021 "Jesus-oriented Judaism: Jesus' Speech and the Logos-Concept as a Test Case." Society of Biblical Literature Annual meeting. San Antonio, TX. Nov. 20-23, *postponed to 2022, due to Covid-19*.
- 2021 "God's Fiery Body. Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies." Frankel Fellows Seminar. Ann Arbor, MI. Oct. 20.
- 2021 "The Luminous-Bodied Divinity Tradition. Divine Bodies Conference. University of Glasgow. April.
- 2020 "John within Judaism." Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. Boston, MA. Nov, *postponed to 2021, due to Covid-19*.
- 2019 Review of Christoph Markschie's *Gottes Körper (God's Body)*. Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA. Nov. 23–26.
- 2018 John 9, the Sense of Hearing, and Belief in Jesus as the Unique Embodiment of God. Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. Denver, CO. Nov. 17–20.
- 2018 God Made Manifest: The Jewish High Priest as Visible Counterpoint to Deified Emperors in the Greco-Roman World? Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. Denver, CO. Nov. 17–20.
- 2018 The Jewish High Priest as Materializing Israel's God? Materializing Ancient Judaism Colloquium. Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies. University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI. Apr. 9–10.
- 2016 Jewish-Christian Relations in Fourth Century Roman Syria/Palestine: Could Oral Remembrances of Jesus's Words Link the PsCl *Homilies* to Rabbinic Judaism? Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. San Antonio, TX. Nov. 19–22.
- 2016 The Central Role of Jesus' *λόγοι* in the Gospel of John. Nangeroni Meeting. Camaldoli, Italy. June 19–24.
- 2015 The Jewish-Christian Nature of the Pseudo-Clementine *Homilies*. Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. Atlanta, Georgia. Nov. 21–24.
- 2015 Mystical Ascent in Philo of Alexandria. Enoch Seminar. Milan, Italy. June 21–26.
- 2014 The Jewish High Priest: Mediator of the Divine. Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA. November 22–25.
- 2014 The Jewish High Priest: Human or Divine Mediator? Graduate Enoch Seminar. Montreal, Canada. May 19–22.
- 2013 Divine Embodiment in the Gospel of John and Philo's *De Opificio Mundi* 135. Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD. Nov 23–26.

- 2013 The Jewish Roots of Ignatius' Paradoxical Incarnational Language. North American Patristics Society. Chicago, IL. May 23–25.
- 2013 A Godly Gentile Woman & the Marginalization of Judaism: Mark 7 and its Early Interpretive History. Society of Biblical Literature Midwest Regional Conference. Bourbonnais, IL. February 8–10.
- 2012 The 'Shaping' of Jesus's Encounter with the Gentile Woman in Mark 7:24-30/Matthew 15:21-8. Graduate Enoch Seminar. Notre Dame, IN. June 18–20.
- 2012 Hermeneutical Skepticism & an Incarnational Claim in Justin Martyr's *Dialogue with Trypho*. North American Patristics Society. Chicago, IL, May 24-26.

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Manuscript Reviews**

Books: *Cambridge University Press*

Journals: *Journal for Interdisciplinary Biblical Studies (JIBS)*; *Religion Compass*; *Journal of Ancient Judaism*

### **Board Appointments**

2020–*present* Board of the Enoch Seminar

2015–*present* 4 Enoch Editorial Board. Online Encyclopedia of Second Judaism and Christian Origins.

### **To the Department/University**

2023–2024 Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Mentor

2022–2023 DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Committee, Department of Middle East Studies, University of Michigan

2022–2023 Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Mentor

2022, sum Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Mentor

2015–2016 Organizer, Dissertation Writing Group, University of Michigan

2013 Organizer, Coptic Reading Group, University of Michigan

2012–2013 Mentor to New Graduate Student Instructors, Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan.

2006–2007 Organizer, Hebrew Reading Group, Duke University.

2005–2007 President, Presbyterian Student Association, Duke Divinity School, Duke University.

## **ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

2017 Graduate Teaching Certificate, Rackham School of Graduate Studies, Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, University of Michigan.

2017 Graduate Certificate in Judaic Studies, Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan.

## **MEDIA COVERAGE**

2021 On Biblical Scholarship Podcast Interview. Hosted by Eric Roseberry.

2017 God's Embodiment in Jewish Antiquity. Frankely Judaic Podcast. Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies. University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI.

**LANGUAGES Ancient**

Greek (Koine): Research Language

Hebrew (Biblical and Rabbinic): Research Language

Syriac, including Aramaic scripts: novice

Coptic: novice

**Modern**

German: Research Language

Modern Hebrew: Research Language

Spanish: Research Language