

Sarah Elizabeth Shortall

Assistant Professor of Modern European History
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Notre Dame (USA)

Assistant Professor of Modern European History

2017 – present

University College, Oxford University (UK)

Sanderson Junior Research Fellowship

2015 – 2017

EDUCATION

Harvard University (USA)

Doctor of Philosophy, History

November 2015

- Dissertation: “Soldiers of God in a Secular World: The Politics of Catholic Theology, 1905-1962” (Awarded the 2015 Harold K. Gross Prize for the best dissertation in History at Harvard University)
- Advisor: Peter Gordon (Harvard University, History Department)
- Committee: Judith Surkis (Rutgers University, History Department), Francis Schüssler Fiorenza (Harvard University, Divinity School), Ann Blair (Harvard University, History Department)

Harvard University (USA)

Master of Arts, History

2010

- General examination fields: Modern France (Judith Surkis), Modern European Intellectual History (Peter Gordon), Early Modern European Intellectual and Cultural History (Ann Blair), Modern Catholic Theology (Francis Schüssler Fiorenza)

Queen’s University (Canada)

Bachelor of Arts (Honours, with Distinction), History

2007

- Honours Thesis: “Reactionary Avant-Gardism: The Catholic Counter-Revolution, Transgressive Catholicism, and the Roots of the French Postmodern”
 - Advisor: Harold Mah (Queen’s University, History Department)
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PUBLICATIONS

Book Manuscripts

Soldiers of God in a Secular World: The Politics of Catholic Theology in Twentieth-Century France
(under contract with Harvard University Press).

Christianity and Human Rights, co-edited with Daniel Steinmetz-Jenkins (under contract with Cambridge University Press).

Articles and Essays

“Theology and the Politics of Christian Human Rights,” *Journal of the History of Ideas* (Accepted).

“Religion and the Divine,” *A Cultural History of Ideas in the Modern Age*, ed. by Stefanos Geroulanos (Submitted).

“Lost in Translation: Religion and the Writing of History,” *Modern Intellectual History* 13 (April 2016), 273-286.

“Bergson, Henri (1859-1941),” *Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism*, ed. by Stephen Ross (Routledge, 2016).

“Psychedelic Drugs and the Problem of Experience,” *Past & Present* 222, suppl 9 (2014), 187-206.

Manuscripts in Progress

“From the Three Bodies of Christ to the King’s Two Bodies: The Theological Origins of Secularization Theory” (Revising for submission to the *Journal of Modern History*).

“‘The Heart of Matter’: Science, Decolonization, and the Rise of Planetary Catholicism” (Revising for submission to the *American Historical Review*).

“Gilles de Rais and the Politics of Medievalism: Modern Afterlives of a Medieval Mass-Murderer” (Revising for submission to *French Historical Studies*).

Academic Blog Posts

At *The Immanent Frame*, an initiative of the Social Science Research Council’s program on Religion in the Public Sphere:

- “The Vatican Spring?” (Scholarly forum I organized on the election of Pope Francis), May 10th, 2013.
- “The Vatican and the ‘war on women religious,’” May 4th, 2012.
- “Of Saints, separatism, and secularization (Part 2),” January 3rd, 2011.
- “Of Saints, separatism, and secularization (Part 1),” November 24th, 2010.
- “Belonging without believing,” August 30th, 2010.
- “Impure thoughts,” July 6th, 2010.
- “Sex, scandal, and the secular,” June 24th, 2010.

Newspaper and Magazine Articles

On the Québec Charter of Values:

- “There’s more than one path to female empowerment,” *The Montreal Gazette*, November 13th, 2013.
- “Importing France’s model of laïcité is a mistake for the PQ,” *The Montreal Gazette*, October 2nd, 2013.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“A Spiritual Front: Catholic Theology and the Resistance to Nazism in France,” Modern Religious History Seminar, Oxford University, May 2017.

- “Exile Catholicism: Anticlericalism, Antimodernism, and the Birth of the ‘Nouvelle Théologie,’” invited paper, workshop on New Perspectives on Political Pluralism and Religious Conflict, University of Edinburgh, May 2017.
- “The Theological Foundations of the Spiritual Resistance to Nazism in France,” History of Political Thought Seminar, Oxford University, February 2017.
- “From Royalism to the Mystical Body of Christ: The Interwar Revolution in French Catholic Political Theology,” Cambridge Political Thought Seminar, Cambridge University, November 2016.
- “From Royalism to the Mystical Body of Christ: The Interwar Revolution in French Catholic Political Theology,” Modern European History Seminar, Oxford University, November 2016.
- “Marxism, Decolonization, and the Rise of a Planetary Catholic Consciousness,” conference on Religious and Secular Internationalisms, University College, Oxford University, May 2016.
- “The Weapons of the Spirit: Catholic Theology and the Resistance to Nazism in France,” History Department Research Seminar, Monash University, Australia, March 2016.
- “An Alternative History of Christian Human Rights,” invited presentation, Annual Symposium in the Humanities and the Social Sciences, Queen Mary University of London, January 2016.
- “The Heart of Matter: Marxism, Négritude, and the ‘Planetary’ Turn in Global Catholicism,” invited presentation, conference on Political Catholicism, The Remarque Institute, New York University, December 2015.
- “From the Three Bodies of Christ to the King’s Two Bodies: A Theological Genealogy of Secularization Discourse,” conference paper, conference on Theorizing Religion in Modern Europe, Harvard University, March 2014.
- “Secularizing Theologies,” invited panelist, conference on After Secularization, University of California Humanities Research Institute, University of California, Irvine, March 2013.
- “Separation Anxiety: Theological Anthropology and the Problem of Christian Democracy in France,” conference paper, conference on Transnational Christianity and the Problem of Democracy, Harvard University, February 2013.
- “Theology in Exile: Jersey and the Institutional Roots of the Nouvelle Théologie,” conference paper, Annual Meeting of the American Catholic Historical Association, held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, New Orleans, January 2013.
- “Henri de Lubac, Gaston Fessard, et les enjeux politiques de la théologie catholique française (1926-1950),” invited presentation, Atelier des Doctorants, Groupe Sociétés, Religions, Laïcités, École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris, April 2012.
- “Religion and Intellectual History,” invited panelist, The Remarque Institute Kandersteg Seminar, Kandersteg, Switzerland, March 2012.

“Integrating Theology: Henri de Lubac and the Interwar Origins of the Critique of Neo-Scholasticism,” conference paper, Annual Meeting of the American Catholic Historical Association, held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Chicago, January 2012.

“An Atheism that is not Humanist Emerges in French Thought,” discussant, book discussion by Stefanos Geroulanos, Harvard University Colloquium for Intellectual History, Harvard University, March 2011.

“Drugs and the Problem of Experience: The Case of the American Psychedelic Drug Culture, 1949-1969,” conference paper, conference on Intoxicants and Intoxication in Cultural and Historical Perspective, Cambridge University, July 2010.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Harold K. Gross Dissertation Prize (best dissertation in History), Harvard University	2015
Sanderson Junior Research Fellowship, University College, Oxford	2015 - 2018
College Fellow, Committee on Social Studies, Harvard University (Declined)	2015 - 2016
Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship	2014 - 2015
Charlotte W. Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson Foundation (Declined)	2014 - 2015
Krupp Completion Fellowship, Center for European Studies, Harvard University (Declined)	2014 - 2015
Dan David Prize Scholarship, Dan David Foundation (Israel)	2012 - 2013
History Department Prize Instructorship, Harvard University	2012 - 2013
Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Bok Center for Teaching, Harvard University	Spring 2011
Frederick Sheldon Traveling Research Fellowship, GSAS, Harvard University	2011 - 2012
Krupp Research Fellowship, Center for European Studies, Harvard University	2011 - 2012
Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship, Social Science Research Council	Summer 2010
Graduate Society Summer Pre-dissertation Fellowship, GSAS, Harvard University	Summer 2010
Doctoral Fellowship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada	2008 - 2012
Weatherhead Center for International Affairs Grant, Harvard University	2009 - 2010
Dean’s Honour List, with Distinction (top 3% of graduating class), Queen’s University	2006 - 2007
Arthur M. Keppel-Jones Essay Prize (best essay in History), Queen’s University	2005 - 2006
Frank Carrel Merit Scholarship, Queen’s University	2003 - 2007

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University College, Oxford University (UK)

Tutor

- “Disciplines of History”
 - Religion and History Hilary Term 2016
 - The Linguistic Turn Hilary Term 2016
Trinity Term 2017

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (USA)

History Department Prize Instructor

Spring 2013

- History 721: “Religion and Modernity in Transatlantic Perspective.”
Undergraduate seminar I designed and taught as the recipient of a competitive instructorship.

Teaching Fellow

- History 97b: “What is Intellectual History?” (Seminar, David Armitage) Spring 2014
A division of the sophomore methods course required for all History concentrators at Harvard. I led three tutorial sections devoted to methods in intellectual history.
- Culture and Belief 50: “The European Postwar: Film, Literature, Politics” (Lecture course, General Education Curriculum, Peter Gordon) Fall 2013
Head Teaching Fellow
- History 1324: “French Social Thought” (Lecture course, Peter Gordon) Spring 2011
Awarded Harvard Certificate of Distinction in Teaching
- History 83f: “Political Theology” (Seminar, Peter Gordon) Fall 2010

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Referee

- Harvard University Press
- *Social History of Medicine; Bulletin of the History of Medicine*

Religious and Secular Internationalisms, Conference Co-Organizer May 2016

- Co-organized an international workshop on internationalism at Oxford University. Participants included both the leading and emerging scholars in the field.

Undergraduate Admissions for History (University College, Oxford) 2015 – 2016 2016 – 2017

- Conducted undergraduate interviews, graded admissions exams, and selected successful candidates for admission to the B.A. in History at University College.

Theorizing Religion in Modern Europe, Conference Co-Organizer 2013 – 2014

- Co-organizes a major interdisciplinary conference on the role of religion in Modern Europe at Harvard University in March 2014. The international roster of invited panelists brought together the leading scholars and theorists of this field.

Job Search Committee, Graduate Representative (Harvard University) 2013 – 2014

- Graduate-student representative on the search committee for a tenure-track professorship in modern gender and cultural history.

Society for French Historical Studies Annual Conference, Organizing Committee 2012 – 2013

- Member of seven-person committee charged with organizing a major three-day, 500-person academic conference jointly hosted at Harvard and MIT.

Center for European Studies Graduate Workshop, Chair (Harvard University) 2010 – 2011

- Revived, organized, and chaired a yearlong workshop for Ph.D. candidates to present and receive feedback on dissertation chapters and articles related to modern European history.

LANGUAGES

French (native-level proficiency in writing, reading, and speaking)

Italian (advanced reading; intermediate speaking)
Spanish (advanced reading; intermediate speaking)
German (intermediate reading; beginner speaking)
Brazilian Portuguese (intermediate reading; beginner speaking)

AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion
American Historical Association
American Catholic Historical Association
Groupe Sociétés, Religions, Laïcités, École Pratique des Hautes Études
Society for French Historical Studies

REFERENCES

Peter E. Gordon

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