

CURRICULUM VITAE  
Rebecca K. Esterson

Assistant Professor of Sacred Texts and Traditions  
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## Education

- 2017 | Ph.D., Boston University, Graduate Division of Religious Studies, Boston, Ma.  
Track: Texts and Traditions  
  
Dissertation: “Secrets of Heaven: Allegory, Jews, the European Enlightenment and the Case of Emanuel Swedenborg”  
Committee: Deena Klepper, Boston University; Michael Zank, Boston University; Andrew Dole, Amherst College.
- 2002 | Masters of Theological Studies, Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Ma.  
Focus: World Religions
- 2000-01 | Graduate Year Program, Rothberg International School, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
- 1998 | Bachelor of Arts, Moravian College, Bethlehem, Pa.  
Double Major: Psychology and Religion, *Summa Cum Laude*

## Fellowships and Awards

- Early Career Faculty Workshop Fellow, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, (2019)
- The Helen G. Allen Humanities Award and the Angela J. and James J. Rallis Memorial Award, Center for the Humanities, Boston University, (2015)
- Dean’s Fellowship, Boston University (2011-15)
- Graduate Writing Fellow, Center for Writing, Boston University (2014)
- Outstanding Teaching Fellow Award, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University (2014)
- Harvard-Hebrew University Fellowship, Harvard University (2000-01)

## Positions Held

- Center for Swedenborgian Studies, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, Ca,
  - Assistant Professor of Sacred Texts and Traditions and Dorothea Harvey Professor of Swedenborgian Studies, Spring 2017-present
  - Lecturer, May 2016-Jan 2017
  - Scholar in Training, September 2011-May 2016
- Graduate Theological Union in partnership with John Wiley & Sons
  - Co-Editor of the journal *Teaching Theology and Religion*, July, 2019-present
- Boston University Center for Writing, Boston, Ma, Fall, 2014
  - Tutor and Intensive ESL Tutor
- Boston University, Department of Religion, Boston, Ma, 2011-2014
  - Teaching Fellow
- Swedenborg Foundation, Summer-Fall 2012
  - Content Contributor: Annotations for Critical Edition of Swedenborg's *Marriage Love*
- Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Ma, 2002-2011
  - Coordinator of Educational Programming

## Teaching Experience and Training

- Wabash Center, Workshop for Early Career Theological School Faculty, 2018-19
- AAR Workshop on Interreligious Pedagogies Sponsored by the Luce Project on Interreligious Education in the United States, November, 2018
- Intensive ESL Tutor Training, Boston University Writing Center. Fall, 2014
- Current courses taught for the Graduate Theological Union:
  - History of Biblical Interpretation
  - Jews, Christians, and the Bible: Interpretation, Appropriation, and Exchange
  - Doctoral Seminar in Sacred Texts and their Interpretation
- Current courses taught for the Center for Swedenborgian Studies
  - Swedenborgian Biblical Exegesis
  - Genesis: A Journey Inward
  - Death and Immortality in the Swedenborgian Tradition
  - Incarnational Theology
- Courses Taught as a Boston University Teaching Fellow, 2012-2014
  - Introduction to Religion

- The Bible
- Religions of the World, Eastern
- Death and Immortality

### Peer Reviewed Articles

- “Allegory and Religious Pluralism: Biblical Interpretation in the Eighteenth Century,” in *Journal of the Bible and Its Reception* (De Gruyter, 2018): 111–139.
- “What do the Angels Say? Alterity and the Ascents of Emanuel Swedenborg and the Baal Shem Tov,” in *Open Theology*, vol. 4, no. 1 (De Gruyter, 2018): 414-421.

### Invited and Online Publications

- “Swedenborg and the Present-Day Apocalypse in Blake’s ‘The Everlasting Gospel’” chapter in *Foundations for Grand Things: Swedenborg and the Arts*, forthcoming, Swedenborg Foundation.
- Book Review of *From Here to Eternity: Traveling the World to Find the Good Death*, by Caitlin Doughty for *Homiletic: The Journal of the Academy of Homiletics*, (forthcoming 2019 issue).
- “[Did Swedenborg Study Kabbalah? Part 1: Comparison of Ideas](#)” and “[Did Swedenborg Study Kabbalah? Part 2: Probing His Historical Context](#),” Swedenborg Foundation Scholarly Blog, May 2016.
- “A Fusion of Two Worlds: The Tabernacle of Israel in Jewish and Swedenborgian Imagination,” in *Studia Swedenborgiana*, (Spring 2005)

### Manuscript in Progress

- “*God is His Own Interpreter*”: *Jews, Christians, and Biblical Allegory in the Eighteenth Century*

### Lectures

- “Judge Not? The Pedagogical Puzzle of Right Interpretation and Wrong Interpretation.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature: Use, Influence, and Impact of the Bible Program Unit, November, 2019.
- “What Do the Angels Say? Scripture, Identity, and the Ascents of Emanuel Swedenborg and Baal Shem Tov.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature: Jewish-Christian Dialogue and Sacred Texts Program Unit, November, 2017.
- “Swedenborg and the Present-Day Apocalypse in Blake's The Everlasting Gospel.” Swedenborg and the Arts Conference, Bryn Athyn College, June, 2017.

- Respondent: Panel on “Blake’s Esoteric Discontents.” Annual Meeting of the The North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, August 11, 2016.
- “The Gospel According to William Blake: On the Use of Biblical Apocalyptic Imagery in ‘The Everlasting Gospel.’” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature: History of Interpretation Program Unit, November 21, 2015.
- “The Demise and Ascent of Allegory: Science and Scripture in the Eighteenth Century.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature: History of Interpretation Program Unit, November 25, 2013.
- “Chaos and Order: On Living at the Threshold, With Another Person.” Discussion on interfaith marriage for staff and faculty members of the Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA, May, 2011
- “The Tabernacle of Israel in Jewish and Christian Religious Imagination.” Lecture, Glencairn Museum, April, 2002

**Languages** (in order of proficiency): English, Biblical Hebrew, Latin, French, German, Classical Arabic.