

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## Kerry Marie Sonia

### Education

Ph.D. **Brown University**, 2017, Religions of the Ancient Mediterranean.

Major area: Israelite Religion; minor area: Mesopotamian Religion

Dissertation: "The Enduring Dead: The Cult of Dead Kin in Ancient Israel"

Advisor: Saul M. Olyan

Committee: Matthew T. Rutz, Michael L. Satlow, Susan Ackerman

M.T.S. **Harvard Divinity School**, 2009, Hebrew Bible/Old Testament.

A.B. **Brown University**, 2007, Religious Studies with Honors.

### Research Interests

Hebrew Bible/Old Testament; history of biblical interpretation; comparative religions in ancient West Asia; household and family religion in the ancient world; women, sexuality, and gender in Israelite religion; burial and mortuary practices; religious specialists in the Hebrew Bible; ritual violence; monumentality and the destruction of cultural memory.

### Teaching Experience

- The Hebrew Bible in Its World, Fall 2017  
Bowdoin College
- Death and Immortality in the Ancient World, Fall 2017  
Bowdoin College
- The New Testament in Its World, Spring 2017  
Bowdoin College
- Dead Bodies & Living Memories: Immortality in the Ancient World, Fall 2015  
Wheaton College (Norton, MA)
- Readings in Biblical Hebrew, Spring 2012, Spring 2014  
Brown University
- Introduction to Biblical Hebrew, Fall 2013  
Brown University

### Teaching Certifications

- "Active Learning: Beyond the Museum Visit" June 2017  
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Faculty Workshop

- Bowdoin College Museum of Art & Portland Museum of Art
- Teaching and Technology Institute Certification Winter 2014  
Instructional Technology Group, Brown University
  - ELL (English Language Learner) Teaching Certification Fall 2014  
Writing Center, Brown University

## Awards and Grants

- Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow (Religion in the Ancient Mediterranean World) Spring 2017-Spring 2018  
Bowdoin College
- Robert Pfeiffer Archaeological Fund Grant, Harvard Divinity School 2009  
Leon Levy Expedition to Ashkelon
- Bishop McVickar Prize for Excellence in Religious Studies, Brown University 2007
- Research at Brown Grant, Brown University 2006
- Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award (UTRA), Brown University 2006

## Publications

- *The Enduring Dead: the Cult of Dead Kin in Ancient Israel* (in preparation)
- “Josiah” Fall 2015  
*Routledge Dictionary of Ancient Mediterranean Religions*, ed. Eric Orlin
- “Kings, Books of” Fall 2015  
*Routledge Dictionary of Ancient Mediterranean Religions*, ed. Eric Orlin

## Conference Presentations

- “Contested Divination: Biblical Necromancy and Competition among Religious Specialists in Ancient Israel” November 2017 (scheduled)  
Israelite Religion in Its West Asian Context  
Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting
- “Down to its Foundations: the Destruction of Space and People in the Biblical World” August 2017  
Place, Space, and Identity in the Ancient Mediterranean World  
Society of Biblical Literature, International Meeting
- “Making Kin Through Cult: The Role of the Cult of Dead Kin in the November 2016

- Construction of Social Bonds in Ancient West Asia”  
Israelite Religion in Its West Asian Context  
Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting
- “Rethinking the Exclusion of Women from the Israelite Cult of Dead Kin” February 2016  
Judaic Studies Faculty Seminar, Brown University
  - “Yahweh as Divine Caregiver: Reexamining Ancestor Cult in the Post-exilic Period” December 2015  
The Practice and Materiality of Jewish Death Seminar  
Association for Jewish Studies, Annual Meeting
  - “The Exclusion of Women from Israelite Ancestor Cult: Some Considerations” November 2015  
Women in the Biblical World Session  
Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting
  - Defining ‘Self’ & ‘Other’ Through Domestic Cult (Panel Chair) April 2014  
Self and Space: Household Identity and Domestic Cult in the Ancient Mediterranean and Near East, Yale University

## Institutional Service

- Executive Committee Fall 2013-Fall 2015  
Religious Studies Graduate Organization, Brown University
- Conference Organizer Spring 2014  
“Beasts, Monsters, and the Fantastic in the Religious Imagination,”  
Religious Studies Graduate Conference, Brown University
- Mentor for Undergraduate Concentrators Fall 2013-Spring 2014  
Religious Studies Department, Brown University
- Conference Organizer Spring 2013  
1<sup>st</sup> Annual Harvard-Yale-Brown-Brandeis Day for Students and Faculty  
in Hebrew Bible/Ancient Israel

## Languages

Hebrew (Biblical and Dead Sea Scrolls), Akkadian, Ugaritic, Aramaic (Targumic, Biblical, Imperial, and Old), Greek (Classical and Koine), Latin, French, German