Jake Sirota
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Education

Ph.D.	Divinity School, *University of Chicago*	ABD 2026
M.A.	Divinity School, *University of Chicago*	2022
B.A.	Philosophy, *Washington and Lee University* *Departmental Honors*, concentration in cultural anthropology	2019

Research Interests and Teaching Fields

Religion, literature, and literary theory • Race and religion • Religion, economic and financial history • Religion and colonialism • Psychoanalysis, religion, and politics • 18th Century • Modern religious thought • Philosophy of religion • Religion and political economy • Religion and critical theory • Religions in the Americas • Materiality, materialism, and material religion • History of the study of religion • Travelogues and travel narratives • Theories and methods in the study of religion • Theory of history and historiography

Publications

Book review: Storm, Jason Ānanda Josephson, *The Genealogy of Genealogy: Nietzsche, Foucault, and the Coils of Critical History.* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2026) for *Journal of Religion* (forthcoming)

Book review: An Yountae, *The Coloniality of the Secular: Race, Religion, and Poetics of World-Making.* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2024) for *Journal of Religion* (Volume 106, Number 2, April 2026).

"Misdiagnosing Jewish Loyalty." *Sightings: A Publication of the Martin Marty Center for the Public Understanding of Religion.* November 17, 2022.

"*Geschlecht III:* Authentic Faith, Religion, and Politics in Derrida's Reading of Heidegger's *Geist*." *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory*. 21.1, Winter 2022.

Conference Panels Organized

"Economic and Religious Futures," at *American Academy of Religion*, Denver CO, November 2026. Presider, co-sponsored by the *Religion and Economy* and *Theology and Continental Philosophy* units.

Conference Papers and Presentations

"Crisis of Confidence: Providence, Literature, and the Financialization of Slavery," at *American Academy of Religion*, Denver CO, November 2026

"Money and/as Signs of the Times: *Perutah* as Symbolic and Material Economy in Sanhedrin," at *Workshop on Talmud and Contemporary Thought*. Paris FR, March 10, 2026.

"*Geschlecht III*: Understanding Faith in Derrida's Reading of Heidegger's Tainted Spirit," at *Heidegger: Politics, History, Modernity*. Chicago IL, May 29, 2021.

"Secular Confessions? Reading Karl Ove Knausgaard's *Summer* with Augustine and Buber," at *Science, Society, and the Arts.* Lexington VA, March 21, 2019.

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant

"Deconstruction and Religion" (*University of Chicago*) Autumn 2026
"The Wolf Seminar in Religion, Science, and Technology: Gaming the Gods" (*University of Chicago*) Spring 2026
"Themes in the Academic Study of Religion" (*University of Chicago*) Winter 2026
"Anthropology of Food and Cuisine" (*University of Chicago*) Autumn 2022

Research Languages

English (native), French (reading competency), German (reading competency), Colloquial Tibetan (rudimentary spoken)

Awards, Grants, Fellowships, and Service

Anthony C. Yu Fellowship in Comparative Religions and Literature 2026-2027
University of Chicago

Conference Presentation Grant 2026
Joyce Z. and Jacob Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies

Research Travel Grant 2026
France Chicago Center

Colman Pedagogy Fellow 2025-2026
Martin Marty Center for the Public Understanding of Religion

Colman Research Grant 2021, 2022, 2023
University of Chicago Divinity School

Co-Coordinator, Religion, Literature, and Visual Culture Workshop 2022, 2023
University of Chicago

Critical Inquiry Visiting Professor Seminar with Catherine Malabou, Selected Participant 2022
Critical Inquiry and Department of English, University of Chicago

James Fulton Maclear Scholar 2020-2022
Divinity School, University of Chicago

Divinity School Dean's Scholar 2020-2022
Divinity School, University of Chicago

The Young Prize for Best Work in Philosophy 2019
Department of Philosophy, Washington and Lee University

Departmental Honors in Philosophy 2019
Department of Philosophy, Washington and Lee University

Head Undergraduate Fellow 2018-2019
Roger Mudd Center for Ethics, Washington and Lee University

Leyburn Research Grant 2017, 2018
Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Washington and Lee University

Touchton Scholar Grant 2017, 2018, 2019
Washington and Lee University

Research Positions

Research Assistant, Prof. Sarah Hammerschlag September 2021-Spring 2024
Divinity School, University of Chicago

Research Lead July 2022-August 2023
Foodways History and Culinary Anthropology Research Associate June 2021-July 2022
Appetite Lab, Nouri Singapore

Editorial Experience

Shenandoah Literary Magazine Special Features Editor March 2020-October 2020

Shenandoah Literary Magazine Editorial Intern June 2019-March 2020

Mudd Journal of Ethics Editor Winter 2018-May 2019

The Stone Photo Editor Fall 2016-May 2019

WLUR Radio Music Reviewer, DJ Spring 2016-May 2019

Employment

Grounds of Being Coffee Shop, Operating Manager September 2021-August 2024

The Restaurant at the Durham Hotel, Cook *Garde Mange* June 2019-September 2019

Professional Societies

American Academy of Religion (AAR), Member