Stanford



Charlotte Fonrobert

Associate Professor of Religious Studies and, by courtesy, of Classics and of German Studies

Bio

BIO

Charlotte Elisheva Fonrobert specializes in Judaism: talmudic literature and culture. Her interests include gender in Jewish culture; the relationship between Judaism and Christianity in Late Antiquity; the discourses of orthodoxy versus heresy; the connection between religion and space; and rabbinic conceptions of Judaism with respect to GrecoRoman culture. She is the author of Menstrual Purity: Rabbinic and Christian Reconstructions of Biblical Gender(2000), which won the Salo Baron Prize for a best first book in Jewish Studies of that year and was a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award in Jewish Scholarship. She also co-edited The Cambridge Companion to the Talmud and Rabbinic Literature (2007), together with Martin Jaffee (University of Washington). Currently, she is working on a manuscript entitled Replacing the Nation: Judaism, Diaspora and the Neighborhood.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Associate Professor, Religious Studies
- Associate Professor (By courtesy), Classics
- Associate Professor (By courtesy), German Studies

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Adjunct Faculty, Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles, (1999-1999)
- Visiting Professor, University of Judaism, (2002-2002)
- Visiting Professor, University of Judaism, (2001-2001)
- Visiting Professor, University of Judaism, (2000-2000)
- Visiting Professor, Hebrew Union College in New York, (2002-2002)
- Visiting Professor, Hebrew Union College in New York, (2001-2001)
- Visiting Professor, Graduate Theological Union/Center for Jewish Studies, (2006-2006)
- Visiting Professor, Graduate Theological Union/Center for Jewish Studies, (2007-2007)
- Visiting Professor, Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz, Department of Catholic Theology, (2008-2008)
- Lecturer, University of Washington, (1994-1995)
- Acting Assistant Professor of Religion, Department of Religion, Syracuse University, (1995-1996)
- Assistant Professor of Talmud, University of Judaism, (1996-2000)
- Assistant Professor of Religious Studies (in Judaism), Department of Religious Studies, Stanford University, (2000- present)
- Associate Professor of Religious Studies (in Judaism), Department of Religious Studies, Stanford University, (2006- present)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Herman F. and Elisabeth Graebe Memorial Fellowship, Herman F. and Elisabeth Graebe Memorial (1990)
- Newhall Teaching and Research Fellowship, Graduate Theological Union (1990-1992)
- Lady Davis Dissertation Fellowship, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1992-1993)
- Newhall Research Fellowship, Graduate Theological Union (1993-1994)
- Hazel D. Cole Fellowship, University of Washington (1994-1995)
- Dissertation Fellowship, Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture (1994-1995)
- Salo Baron Wittmayer Prize, American Academy for Jewish Research (2000)
- Finalist for the National Jewish Book Award in Jewish Scholarship, Jewish Book Council (2000)
- Humanities Center Fellow, Stanford university (2003-2004)
- Dean's Fellow for the Humanities, Stanford University (2004-2005)
- Fellowship, Hartman North American Scholars' Circle (2009-2010)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Series Co-editor, Divinations: Rereading Religion in Late Antiquity, Stanford University Press (2000 - 2002)
- Series Co-editor, Divinations: Rereading Religion in Late Antiquity, University of Pennsylvania Press (2002 - 2005)
- Book Review Editor, Association for Jewish Studies Review (2006 - present)
- Editorial Board, International Member, Cahiers du Judaïsme (2009 - 2009)
- Member, Association for Jewish Studies
- Member, World Congress of Jewish Studies
- Member, American Academy of Religion
- Member, Society of Biblical Literature
- Member, North American Patristics Society
- Chair, Committee of Academic Affairs, University of Judaism (1999 - 2000)
- Chair, Finkelstein (Post-) Doctoral Fellowship Selection Committee, University of Judaism (1998 - 2000)
- Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Religious Studies, Stanford University (2006 - 2008)
- Co-Director of the Taube Center for Jewish Studies, Stanford University (2007 - present)
- Member, Committee of Graduate Studies, Academic Senate, Stanford University (2009 - present)
- Faculty Representative, Judicial Affairs, Stanford University (2007 - 2008)
- Steering Committee Member, Department of Religious Studies, Stanford University (2000 - present)
- Search Committee Member, Department of Religious Studies, Stanford University (2000 - 2004)
- Member, Graduate Student Admission Committee, Stanford University (2003 - 2003)
- Member, Graduate Student Admission Committee, Stanford University (2004 - 2004)
- Member, Graduate Student Admission Committee, Stanford University (2006 - 2006)
- Program Committee Member, Feminist Studies Program, Stanford University (2002 - present)
- Member, Kennedy Thesis and Essay Award Selection Committee, Center for Jewish Studies, Stanford University (2001 - 2001)
- Member, Kennedy Thesis and Essay Award Selection Committee, Center for Jewish Studies, Stanford University (2002 - 2002)
- Member, Lopes Thesis and Essay Prizes in Feminist Studies Selection Committee, Stanford University (2003 - 2003)
- Member, Lopes Thesis and Essay Prizes in Feminist Studies Selection Committee, Stanford University (2004 - 2004)

- Member, Lopes Thesis and Essay Prizes in Feminist Studies Selection Committee, Stanford University (2006 - 2006)
- Member, Lopes Thesis and Essay Prizes in Feminist Studies Selection Committee, Stanford University (2007 - 2007)
- Member, Dissertation Fellowship Selection Committee, Stanford Humanities Center (2006 - 2006)
- Member, Interdept. Search Committee, Representative of Dept. of Religious Studies, Position in Islam, Stanford University (2006 - 2006)
- Member, Interdept. Search Committee, Representative of Dept. of Religious Studies, Position in Islam, Stanford University (2007 - 2007)
- Member, Steering Committee, American Academy of Religion, Section: Judaism (1999 - 2001)
- Chair of Judaism Section, Western Regional American Academy of Religion (2001 - 2003)
- Board Member of the Women's Caucus, Association of Jewish Studies (2001 - 2004)
- Member, Steering Committee, Society of Biblical Literature, Section: History and Literature of Early Rabbinic Judaism (2002 - present)
- Member, Steering Committee, American Academy of Religion, Group: Europe and the Mediterranean in Late Antiquity (2003 - present)
- Member, Board of Directors, Association for Jewish Studies (2004 - present)
- Chair, Section: History and Literature of Early Rabbinic Judaism, Society of Biblical Literature (2006 - 2007)
- Advisory Board Member for the Global Ethics and Religion, Chapman University (1999 - present)
- Manuscript Reviewer, Oxford University Press
- Manuscript Reviewer, Stanford University Press
- Manuscript Reviewer, University of California Press
- Manuscript Reviewer, Association for Jewish Studies Journal
- Manuscript Reviewer, Jewish Social Studies
- Manuscript Reviewer, Cambridge University Press
- Manuscript Reviewer, Jewish Quarterly Review
- Manuscript Reviewer, Journal for Early Christian Studies
- Manuscript Reviewer, Journal of Jewish Studies
- Manuscript Reviewer, Indiana University Press
- Manuscript Reviewer, Routledge
- Consultant for the institution of a position on Gender Studies in Jewish Culture, Jewish Theological Seminary (2003 - 2003)

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity (CCSRE)
- Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Graduate Theological Union (1995)
- M.A., Graduate Theological Union/Center for Jewish Studies (1989)
- B.A., Kirchliche Hochschule (Protestant Seminary Berlin) and Free University of Berlin (1986)

Teaching

COURSES

2026-27

- Gender(s) and Sexuality in Jewish Culture: FEMGEN 171, JEWISHST 171, RELIGST 171 (Win)
- Readings in Talmudic Literature: JEWISHST 127D, JEWISHST 227D, RELIGST 170D (Aut, Win, Spr)

- Why College? Your Education and the Good Life: COLLEGE 101 (Aut)

2025-26

- Readings in Talmudic Literature: JEWISHST 127D, JEWISHST 227D, RELIGST 170D (Aut, Spr)
- Texts that Changed the World from the Ancient Middle East: COMPLIT 31, HUMCORE 111, JEWISHST 150, RELIGST 150 (Aut)
- The Politics of National Memory/ies: OSPBER 33 (Win)
- Why College? Your Education and the Good Life: COLLEGE 101 (Aut)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Anuj Amin, Naomi Mendez, Lauren Urbont

Orals Chair

Nesi Altaras, Makena Mezistrano, Joshua Tapper

Orals Evaluator

Lauren Urbont

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **From Cult to Culture**
  Taubes, J.
  edited by Fonrobert, C. E., Engel, A.
  Stanford University Press.2010
- **Androginos** *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.2009
- **Jewish Topographies: Visions of Space, Traditions or Place** *Association for Jewish Studies Review*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  2009; 33 (1)
- **Va-yikra** *Torah Queeries Commentary*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  New York University Press.2009
- **Abomination** *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.2009
- **Blood** *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  Berline: Walter de Gruyter.2009
- **Une Cartographie Symbolique: le eruv en Diaspora** *Cahiers du Judaisme*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  2009; 25: 26-27
- **Blasphemy** *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.2009
- **Blood and Law: Uterine Fluids and Rabbinic Maps of Identity** *Henoch*

Fonrobert, C. E.
2008; 30 (2)

- **Neighborhood as Ritual Space: The Case of the Rabbinic Eruv** *Archiv für Religionsgeschichte*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  2008; 10: 239-258
- **Cambridge Companion to the Talmud and Rabbinic Literature**
  edited by Fonrobert, C. E., Jaffee, M.
  Cambridge University Press.2007
- **Regulating the Human Body: Rabbinic Legal Discourse and the Making of Jewish Gender** *Cambridge Companion to Rabbinic Literature*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  edited by Fonrobert, C., Jaffee, M.
  Cambridge University Press.2007
- **Introduction to the Talmud**
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  Cambridge University Press.2007
- **Bechukotai** *Women's Torah Commentary*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  New York: URJ Press.2007
- **Metzora** *Women's Torah Commentary*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  New York: URJ Press.2007
- **Plato in Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai's Cave (bShabbat 33b-34a): The Talmudic Inversion of Plato's Politics** *Association for Jewish Studies Review*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  2007; 31 (2): 277-296
- **Tazria** *Women's Torah Commentary*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  New York: URJ Press.2007
- **Orthodoxy** *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  Macmillan USA.2007
- **Re'eh** *Women's Torah Commentary*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  New York: URJ Press.2007
- **Niddah: Lorsque les juifs conceptualisent la menstruation** *Association for Jewish Studies*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  2007
- **Households, Sects, and the Origins of Rabbinic Judaism, Supplements to the Journal for the Study of Judaism 102** *Journal for the Study of Judaism*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  2007
- **Gender Politics in the Rabbinic Neighborhood: Tractate Eruvin** *Introduction to the Feminist Talmud Commentary – Seder Moed*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  edited by Ilan, T., Or, T., Salzer, D. M., Steuer, C., Wanderey, I.
  Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck.2007
- **The Semiotics of the Sexed Body in Early Halakhic Discourse** *Closed and Open: Readings of Rabbinic Texts*

Fonrobert, C. E.
edited by Kraus, M. A.
Gorgias Press.2006: 69–96

- **The Handmaid, the Trickster and the Birth of the Messiah: A Critical Appraisal of the Feminist Valorization of Midrash Aggada** *Current Trends in the Study of Midrash*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  edited by Bakhos, C.
  Leiden: Brill.2006: 245–277
- **The Political Symbolism of the Eruv** *Jewish Social Studies*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  2005; 11 (3): 9-35
- **Jewish Marriage in Antiquity** *Shofar*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  2005; 23 (2)
- **Jewish Christians, Judaizers, and Christian Anti-Judaism** *Late Ancient Christianity*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  edited by Burrus, V., Lyman, R.
  Minneapolis: Fortress Press.2005: 234–255
- **On Carnal Israel and the Consequences: Talmudic Studies Since Foucault** *Jewish Quarterly Review*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  2005; 95 (3): 462-469
- **Gegenwart der Tradition: Studien zur jüdischen Literature und Kulturgeschichte** *Studia Philonica Annual*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  2004
- **Studies in Ancient Midrash** *Shofar*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  2004; 22 (4)
- **From Separatism to Urbanism: The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Origins of the Rabbinic Eruv** *Dead Sea Discoveries*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  2004; 11 (1): 43-71
- **Purification in Judaism** *Encyclopedia of Religion*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  2004; 2nd Edition
- **Roots of Rabbinic Judaism: An Intellectual History: From Ezekiel to Daniel** *Shofar*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  2004; 22 (4)
- **Jewish Marriage in Antiquity** *Review of Biblical Literature*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  2003
- **The Pluralistic Halakhah** *Review of Biblical Literature*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  2003
- **Judaism and Violence** *Religion and Violence*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  edited by Buc, P.
  Morocco.2002

- **When women walk in the way of their fathers: On gendering the rabbinic claim for authority** *JOURNAL OF THE HISTORY OF SEXUALITY*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  2001; 10 (3-4): 398-415
- **The 'Didascalia Apostolorum': A mishnah for the disciples of Jesus (Reexamining the cultural phenomenon of "Jewish Christianity" in the later Roman Empire)** *JOURNAL OF EARLY CHRISTIAN STUDIES*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  2001; 9 (4): 483-509
- **Frauen im Judentum** *Handbuch zur Geschichte der Juden in Europa*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  edited by Kotowski, E. V., Schoeps, J. H., Wallenborn, H.
  Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft.2001
- **The Beginnings of Rabbinic Textuality: Women's Bodies and Paternal Knowledge** *Beginning/Again: Toward a Hermeneutic of Jewish Texts*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  edited by Cohen, A., Magid, S.
  New York: Seven Bridges Press.2001: 49–68
- **Menstrual Purity: Rabbinic and Christian Reconstructions of Biblical Gender**
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  Stanford University Press.2001
- **When the Rabbi Weeps: On Reading Gender in Talmudic Aggadah** *Nashim: A Journal of Jewish Women's Studies & Gender Issues*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  2001; 4: 56-84
- **Some Jewish Women in Antiquity** *Association for Jewish Studies Review*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  2001; 25 (1): 101-104
- **Taming the Powers of Desire: Love and Sex in Jewish Culture** *Love, Sex and Gender in the World Religions*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  edited by Runzo, J., Martin, N. M.
  Oxford: Oneworld Publications.2000: 113–129
- **Menstrual Purity: Rabbinic and Christian Reconstructions of Biblical Gender**
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  Stanford University Press.2000
- **Von Deutschland zum Judentum** *Zwischen-Räume: Deutsche feministische Theologinnen im Ausland*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  edited by von Kellenbach, K., Scholz, S.
  Munster - Hamburg/London: LitVerlag.2000: 41–54
- **Spinning fantasies: Rabbis, gender, and history (Book Review)** *JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION*
  Book Review Authored by: Fonrobert, C.
  1999; 67 (1): 245-248
- **Yalta's Ruse: Resistance Against Rabbinic Menstrual Authority in Talmudic Literature** *Women and Water: Female Rituals of Purification in Jewish History and Culture*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  edited by Wasserfall, R.
  University Press of New England.1999: 60–82
- **To Increase Torah is to Increase Life: Poetics of the Mind and Poetics of the Everyday in Jewish Culture** *The Meaning of Life in the World Religions*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  Oxford: Oneworld Publications.1999: 71–93

- **The Geonim of Babylonia and the Shaping of Medieval Jewish Culture** *Hebrew Literature*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  1998
- **Rereading the Rabbis: A Women's Voice** *Religious Studies Review*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  1998
- **The Women with a Blood-Flow (Mark 5:24-34) Revisited: Menstrual Polemics in Christian Feminist Hermeneutics** *Early Interpretation of the Scriptures of Israel: Investigation and Proposals*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  edited by Evans, C. A., Sanders, J. A.
  JTNTSup.1997: 121–141
- **Tasting the Dish: Rabbinic Rhetorics of Sexuality** *Religious Studies Review*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  1995
- **Customs and Controversies: Intertestamental Jewish Backgrounds of the New Testament** *Critical Review of Books in Religion*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  1995
- **Rabbinic Literature and the New Testament** *Journal of Biblical Literature*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  1994
- **Die Heiden: Juden, Christen und das Problem des Fremden** *IOUDAIOS Review*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  1994
- **Gynecological Exams in Rabbinic Literature – Women's Bodies Between Female Autonomy and Male Control** *Journal of Associated Graduates in Near Eastern Studies*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  1993; 4 (2): 65-72
- **Form, Function, and Historical Significance of the Rabbinic Story in Yerushalmi Neziqin** *Religious Studies Review*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  1993
- **Paul, How Can We Understand Him? How Do We Understand Our Understanding** *Paul the Jew: Jewish/Christian Dialogue*
  Fonrobert, C. E.
  edited by Wuellner, W., Perelmuter, H.
  Center for Hermeneutical Studies.1990: 48–53