

Richard C. Carrier

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Curriculum Vitae
Richard C. Carrier, Ph.D.
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EDUCATION:

Columbia University (New York, NY)

Ph.D. (Ancient History) October 2008
Dissertation: “Attitudes Toward the Natural Philosopher in the
Early Roman Empire (100 B.C. to 313 A.D.)”
Committee: W.V. Harris, R.A. Billows, M.L. Jones, G. Williams, K. Vogt

M.Phil. (Ancient History) May 2000
Majors: Greco-Roman Philosophy, Religion, and Historiography
and the Third Century Crisis (Severus to Constantine)
Examiners: W.V. Harris, R.S. Bagnall, R.A. Billows, A.D.E. Cameron

M.A. (Ancient History) June 1998

University of California Berkeley (Berkeley, CA)

B.A. (major in History with a minor in Classical Civilization) June 1997

Ventura College (Ventura, CA)

IGETC (Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum) June 1995

United States Coast Guard

Duty Gunner’s Mate Certification 1992
Flight Deck Fire Fighter Certification
Division Damage Control Petty Officer Certification
LAMPS Aviation Ordnance Team Qualification

Digital Electronics Training (San Diego, CA) 1991
Sonar Technician School (San Diego, CA)

Basic Military Training (Cape May, NJ) November 1990

LANGUAGES (*translation competency*):

French • German • Latin • Ancient Greek (including papyrology and paleography)

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS:

History & Philosophy of Science and Technology (Greco-Roman and Comparative) •
Philosophy of History & Historical Methods • Greco-Roman Philosophy • Modern
Philosophy of Naturalism (Epistemology, Ontology, Metaethics) • Origins of Christianity •
Greco-Roman Historiography (Authors and Methods)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

Extensive library use at universities and seminaries, digital databases (esp. Thesaurus Linguae
Graecae, Brepols Latin Texts, L'Année Philologique), artifact examination and photographing at the
British Museum, papyrus and manuscript analysis, and personal consultation with relevant experts.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Lecturer

- Independent 2003–present
- Partners for Secular Activism 2014–2019
- CFI Institute 2011–2013

Teach courses on philosophy, historical methods, critical thinking,
history and philosophy of science and religion. Build lectures and
materials; discuss and engage with students using Google Groups or
Moodle; lectures and tutorials to community groups across the world.

Librarian's Assistant (Electronic Texts Service)

Columbia University (New York, NY) 2000–2003

Taught digital scanning, OCR, and text analysis, and use of related
software and hardware to individuals, small groups, and classes.

Graduate Student Instructor (Graduate School of Arts and Sciences)
Columbia University (New York, NY) 1997–2000

Assisted in teaching “The Romans and Their Empire: 754 B.C. to A.D. 564” and “Survey of Ancient Greek History: 800 to 146 B.C.”
Lectured, led discussion sections, created & operated classroom visuals, course web pages, designed handouts & online learning aids, graded exams.

Tutor (Campus Education Assistance Center)
Ventura Community College (Ventura, CA) 1993–1995

Tutored groups weekly in statistics, geology, philosophy, world religions, physical & cultural anthropology, American, African, and world history.

EDUCATION-RELATED EMPLOYMENT:

Columbia University (New York, NY) 1998–2003
Librarian’s Assistant (Electronic Texts Service)
Provided reference help with electronic media, research, and full-text databases and assisted patrons with digital scanning projects.

UC Berkeley (Berkeley, California) 1995–1997
Librarian’s Assistant (Psychology Library)
Worked in circulation, records, acquisitions, and shelving.

ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIPS:

- Current:* Westar Institute Fellow
- Society of Biblical Literature
- Society for Classical Studies
- Global Center for Religious Research
- Former:* Association of Ancient Historians
- History of Science Society

AWARDS:

Columbia University President's Fellowship	1998–2001
Catherine S. Sims Fellowship	1999–2000
Richard Hofstadter Fellowship	1997
Highest Distinction in General Scholarship (UC Berkeley)	1997
Dean's List (UC Berkeley)	1995–1997
Outstanding Scholarship Award in Anthropology (Ventura College)	1995
California Alumni Association Leadership Scholarship	1995
Honorable Discharge (USCG) – Petty Officer 3rd Class (ST3 / E-4)	1992
National Defense Service Medal	1991
Navy Letter of Commendation	1991
Honorman Certificate for Scholastic Achievement & Proven Leadership	1991
USCG Marksman's Ribbons (pistol & rifle)	1990
Principal's Academic Achievement Award (Chaffey High School)	1986
Outstanding Accomplishment & Excellence in Science Award (Ibid.)	1986

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PAPERS:

“Between *Physicus* and *Scientist*: Transitional Ideas of the Natural Philosopher in the 18th Century.” Paper presented at *A Symposium on Classical, Hellenistic, and Late Antique Texts in the Eighteenth Century*. Columbia University, New York (20 September 2003).

“Scribal Error and the Destruction of the Library of Alexandria.” Paper presented at *Repetition and Error* conference, sponsored by the Department of Classics, University of California at Berkeley (12 March 2005).

“Bayes’ Theorem for Beginners: Formal Logic and Its Relevance to Historical Method.” Paper presented at *Sources of the Jesus Tradition: An Inquiry* conference, sponsored by the Committee for the Scientific Examination of Religion. Center for Inquiry Transnational, Amherst, New York (5–7 December 2008).

“The Historicity of Jesus: Revisiting the Question.” Paper presented and defended at the *SBL Pacific Coast Regional Meeting* (<https://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/Meetings/2015-SBL-PCR-Program.pdf>). Azusa Pacific University, California (8–9 March 2015).

“Jesus among the Historians: How the Manuscripts of Josephus Changed Over Time and What They Originally Said: A Survey of Recent Scholarship.” Paper presented at the *SBL Midwest Regional Meeting* (<https://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/Meetings/2017MidwestRegionProgram-final.pdf>). Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, Indiana (10–12 February 2017).

“Bayesian Reasoning’s Power to Challenge Religion and Empirically Justify Atheism.” Paper presented at the Global Center for Religious Research *e-Conference* on Atheism, God, and Suffering (11–12 December 2020). Later published in *SHERM* (below).

“Historicity: Dogma or Hypothesis, a Comparison of Methods.” Paper presented at the Global Center for Religious Research *e-Conference* on the Historical Jesus (24–25 July 2021).

“Field Update on the Case Against the Historicity of Jesus: Recent Peer-Reviewed Publications For and Against.” Paper presented at the *SBL Pacific Coast Regional Meeting* (<https://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/Meetings/2022SBLPCRPROGRAM.pdf>). Brea, California (27 Feb 2022).

PUBLICATIONS:

“Do Religious Life and Critical Thought Need Each Other? A Reply to William Reinsmith.” *Inquiry: Critical Thinking Across the Disciplines* 16.1 (Autumn 1996): 67–75.

“Flash! Fox News Reports that Aliens May Have Built the Pyramids of Egypt!” *Skeptical Inquirer* 23.5 (Sep/Oct 1999): 46–50.

“Are the Odds Against the Origin of Life Too Great?” *Reports of the National Center for Science Education* 20.4 (Jul/Aug 2000): 25–34.

“Pseudohistory in Jerry Vardaman’s Magic Coins: The Nonsense of Micrographic Letters.” *Skeptical Inquirer* 26.2 (Mar/Apr 2002): 39–41, 61.

“More on Vardaman’s Microletters.” *Skeptical Inquirer* 26.4 (Jul/Aug 2002): 60–61.

“Epicurus.” *Encyclopedia of the Ancient World* (Salem Press 2002): 2.503–04; “Lucretius,” 2.738 “Philodemus,” 3.897; “Second Sophistic,” 3.995; “Soranus of Ephesus,” 3.1025–26.

“The Guarded Tomb of Jesus and Daniel in the Lion’s Den: An Argument for the Plausibility of Theft.” *Journal of Higher Criticism* 8.2 (Fall 2001): 304–18.

“The Function of the Historian in Society.” *The History Teacher* 35.4 (Aug 2002): 519–26.

“Hitler’s *Table Talk*: Troubling Finds.” *German Studies Review* 26.3 (Oct 2003): 561–76.

“Whence Christianity? A Meta-Theory for the Origins of Christianity.” *Journal of Higher Criticism* 11.1 (Spring 2005): 22–34.

“The Argument from Biogenesis: Probabilities Against a Natural Origin of Life.” *Biology and Philosophy* 19.5 (Nov 2004): 739–64.

Sense and Goodness without God: A Defense of Metaphysical Naturalism (AuthorHouse 2005).

“The Spiritual Body of Christ and the Legend of the Empty Tomb.” *The Empty Tomb: Jesus Beyond the Grave*, ed. by Robert M. Price & Jeffery Jay Lowder (Prometheus 2005): 105–232.

“The Plausibility of Theft.” *Ibid.*: 349–68.

“The Burial of Jesus in Light of Jewish Law.” *Ibid.*: 369–92.

“Fatal Flaws in Michael Almeida’s Alleged ‘Defeat’ of Rowe’s New Evidential Argument from Evil.” *Philo* 10.1 (Spring/Summer 2007): 85–90.

Not the Impossible Faith: Why Christianity Didn’t Need a Miracle to Succeed (Lulu 2009).

“Bayes’ Theorem for Beginners: Formal Logic and Its Relevance to Historical Method.” *Caesar: A Journal for the Critical Study of Religion and Human Values* 3.1 (2009): 26–35 [reproduced in R. Joseph Hoffmann, ed., *Sources of the Jesus Tradition: Separating History from Myth* (Prometheus 2010): 81–108.]

“On Defining Naturalism as a Worldview.” *Free Inquiry* 30.3 (April/May 2010): 50–51.

“Why the Resurrection is Unbelievable.” *The Christian Delusion: Why Faith Fails*, ed. by John Loftus (Prometheus 2010): 291–315.

“Christianity Was Not Responsible for Modern Science.” *Ibid.*: 396–419.

Why I Am Not a Christian: Four Conclusive Reasons to Reject the Faith (Philosophy Press 2011).

“Christianity’s Success Was Not Incredible.” *The End of Christianity*, ed. by John Loftus (Prometheus 2011): 53–74, 372–75.

“Neither Life Nor the Universe Appear Intelligently Designed.” *Ibid.*: 279–304, 404–14.

“Moral Facts Naturally Exist (and Science Could Find Them).” *Ibid.*: 333–64, 420–29.

Proving History: Bayes’s Theorem and the Quest for the Historical Jesus (Prometheus 2012).

“Thallus and the Darkness at Christ’s Death.” *Journal of Greco-Roman Christianity and Judaism* 8 (2011/2012): 185–91.

“Bayes’ Theorem and the Modern Historian: Proving History Requires Improving Methods,” *Bible and Interpretation* (April 2012). [bibleinterp.arizona.edu/articles/car368023]

“Origen, Eusebius, and the Accidental Interpolation in Josephus, *Jewish Antiquities* 20.200.” *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 20.4 (Winter 2012): 489–514.

“How Not to Defend Historicity.” *Bart Ehrman and the Quest of the Historical Jesus of Nazareth: An Evaluation of Ehrman’s Did Jesus Exist?*, ed. by Frank Zindler and Robert Price (American Atheist Press 2013): 15–62.

“The Mythical Jesus of Joseph Atwill,” *Secular World* (Q3 2013): 49–53.

“On the Facts as We Know Them, Ethical Naturalism Is All There Is: A Reply to Matthew Flannagan,” *Philo* 15.2 (Fall/Winter 2012): 200–11.

“Atheism...Plus What?” *Essays in the Philosophy of Humanism* 21.1 (2013): 105–13.

“The Prospect of a Christian Interpolation in Tacitus, *Annals* 15.44,” *Vigiliae Christianae* 68 (2014): 264–83.

Hitler Homer Bible Christ: The Historical Papers of Richard Carrier 1995–2013 (Philosophy Press 2014).

On the Historicity of Jesus: Why We Might Have Reason for Doubt (Sheffield-Phoenix 2014).

“Fernando Bermejo-Rubio’s Dispassionate Plea for a Historical Jesus,” *Secular World* 20.3 (Summer 2014): 22–23.

“Why We Might Have Reason for Doubt: Should We Still Be Looking for a Historical Jesus?” *Bible and Interpretation* (August 2014). [bibleinterp.arizona.edu/articles/2014/08/car388028]

“Christianity and the Rise of American Democracy.” *Christianity is Not Great: How Faith Fails*, ed. by John Loftus (Prometheus 2014): 180–205, 509.

“The Dark Ages.” *Ibid.*: 209–21, 509–12.

Science Education in the Early Roman Empire (Pitchstone 2016).

The Scientist in the Early Roman Empire (Pitchstone 2017).

“A Path to Secular Reason.” *Resurrection: Faith or Fact? A Scholars’ Debate Between a Skeptic and a Christian*, by Carl Stecher and Craig L. Blomberg (Pitchstone 2019): 40–47.

“A Skeptic’s Analysis.” *Ibid.*: 195–219.

“Does the Testimony of Sacred Scriptures from the Religions of the World Favor (Mono)theism or Atheism?” *Theism And Atheism: Opposing Arguments in Philosophy*, ed. by Joseph Koterski and Graham Oppy (MacMillan Reference / Gale 2019): 127–34.

“At Present, Miracle Claims Undermine Theism.” *Ibid.*: 219–26.

“The Effect of Scientific Progress and the Science of Religion on the Credibility of Theism.” *Ibid.*: 588–91, 600–03.

“The Relevance of Ancient Science to the Survival of Secularism.” *Secular Studies* 2.1 (2020): 58–76.

Jesus From Outer Space: What the Earliest Christians Really Believed about Christ (Pitchstone 2020).

“Jesus from Outer Space?” *Bible and Interpretation* (December 2020). [bibleinterp.arizona.edu/articles/jesus-outer-space]

“Bayesian Reasoning’s Power to Challenge Religion and Empirically Justify Atheism.” *Socio-Historical Examination of Religion and Ministry* 3.1 (Summer 2021): 75–95.

“Book Review: Varieties of Jesus Mythicism Edited by John W. Loftus and Robert M. Price.” *Socio-Historical Examination of Religion and Ministry* 4.1 (Summer 2022): 171–92.

Gesù resistente Gesù inesistente: Due visioni a confronto, with Fernando Bermejo-Rubio and Franco Tommasi (San Cesario di Lecce: Manni, 2022).

“Has James Sterba Established a Logical Argument from Evil or Just a Very Good Evidential One?” *Religions* 14.3.307 (2023).