

# John Tracy Thames, Jr.

## Curriculum Vitae

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### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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- 2019- **Clemson University**, Assistant Professor of Religion  
Department of Philosophy and Religion
- 2017-19 **Yale University**  
**Yale College**, Lecturer, Fellow of Jonathan Edwards College  
**Yale Divinity School**, Lecturer in Hebrew Bible
- 2015-19 **University of Connecticut**, Senior Lecturer of Biblical Languages  
and Biblical Literature  
Department of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages  
Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life

### EDUCATION

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- 2016 Ph.D., Hebrew Bible and Northwest Semitic Philology  
Department of Near Eastern Studies  
**Johns Hopkins University**  
Dissertation: "Ritual Revision and the Influence of Empire:  
The Politics of Change in the *zukru* Festival of Late Bronze  
Age Emar."
- 2010 M.A., Hebrew Bible  
**Yale University Divinity School**
- 2008 M.A., Philosophy  
**Louisiana State University**  
Thesis: "Pacifism and War: What are the Ethical  
and Theological Limitations on the Use of Violence?"
- 2004 B.A., Philosophy  
**Louisiana State University**  
Concentration in Religious Studies  
Minor: Jewish Studies

## BOOKS

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*The Politics of Ritual Change: The zukru Festival in the Political History of Late Bronze Emar* (Harvard Semitic Monographs; Leiden: Brill) forthcoming.

## PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

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- “Keeping the Paschal Lamb: Exodus 12.6 and the Question of Sacrifice in the Passover-of-Egypt.” *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* 44/1 (2019).
- “Dagan and the Ritualization of First Fruits at Emar” in *Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies in Honor of P. Kyle McCarter*. Edited by Christopher Rollston et al. (Ancient Near East Monographs; Atlanta: SBL Press, forthcoming).
- “A New Discussion of the Meaning of the Phrase ‘am hā’āreš in the Hebrew Bible.” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 130/1 (2011): 109-125.

## INVITED PUBLICATIONS

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- “Culture Summary: Ancient Israelites.” *Human Relations Area Files, World Cultures*. New Haven: Human Relations Area Files, 2018.  
Online version: <http://ehrafworldcultures.yale.edu>.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

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| 2017 | “Processional Politics in Emar’s <i>zukru</i> Festival and Implications for Procession Rituals in the Hebrew Bible”<br>Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature |
| 2015 | “The Character of Dagan in Emar’s <i>zukru</i> Festival and the Biblical Ritual of First Fruits.”<br>Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature.                  |
| 2014 | “On Keeping a Lamb Four Days: <i>mišmeret</i> in Exodus 12:6.”<br>Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature.   |
| 2008 | “Just War Theory and Cosmopolitanism.”<br>Louisiana State University Philosophy Colloquium.   |

## INVITED LECTURES

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- 2018 “The Political Impact of Ritual Change at Emar”  
Institute for the Study of the Ancient World  
New York University
- 2016 “The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls”  
University of Hartford

## COURSES TAUGHT

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- Biblical Studies Introduction to Old Testament Interpretation  
The Bible: Old and New Testaments  
Hebrew Wisdom Literature in the Ancient World  
The Song of Songs: Sex, Sexuality, and Religion in the Bible  
Judaism in the Hellenistic World  
The New Testament and Early Christianity  
Hebrew Prophets  
What Are Biblical Values? (assisted)  
Elementary Biblical Hebrew I & II  
Advanced Biblical Hebrew I & II
- Humanities Rituals in Ancient Societies  
First Year Seminar: Inquiry-based Learning  
Senior Year Integrative Capstone: Faith, Belief, and Healthcare\*  
Introduction to Ethics  
Western Religions\*  
Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Ethics\*  
The History of the Alphabet

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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- 2017-19 Society of Biblical Literature, New England/Eastern Canada  
Regional Executive Committee Member
- 2018 Society of Biblical Literature, New England/Eastern Canada  
Chair, Ancient Judaism Panel  
Judge, Best Student Paper Award Competition
- 2017-18 Special Publications Editor  
Yale University; University of Pennsylvania
- 2017-18 Copyeditor  
*Journal for the Study of Judaism*, Brill Publishers

2017-18 Grant Proposal Reviewer  
 Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation  
 Civilian Research and Development Fund Global

### **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT**

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2017 Yale Center for Teaching and Learning  
 Yale Summer Institute: Course (Re)Design

2016 UConn Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning  
 Faculty Teaching Workshop

2011 Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum  
 Syriac Epigraphic Project, Incantation Bowl

2008-10 Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
 Public Services Project Assistant

### **FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS**

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2019 Fellow of Pierson College  
 Yale University

2018 Fellow of Jonathan Edwards College  
 Yale University

2014-15 Hodson Fellowship  
 Johns Hopkins University

2013-14 Samuel Iwry Fellowship  
 Johns Hopkins University

2012 Summer Travel Grant  
 Johns Hopkins University

2011 Summer Language Study Award  
 Mellon Foundation

2010-15 Jewish Studies Awards  
 The Leonard and Helen R. Stulman  
 Program in Jewish Studies

2010-15 Departmental Fellowship (Near Eastern Studies)  
 Johns Hopkins University

2009 Two Brothers Fellowship  
 Yale University

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK**

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2012 Tayinat Archaeological Project, Hatay Province, Turkey  
 Square Supervisor

2009 Leon-Levy Expedition to Ashkelon, Israel  
Volunteer

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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Society of Biblical Literature  
Catholic Biblical Association – Full Member

## **LANGUAGES**

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modern: German, French; Modern Standard Arabic (elementary).  
ancient: Biblical Hebrew, Aramaic, Ugaritic, Akkadian, Northwest Semitic  
Dialects (Phoenician, Moabite, epigraphic Hebrew), Egyptian,  
Greek (koine).

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

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Ritual in the Hebrew Bible and ancient Near East. Ritual theory.  
Ritual and the construction of power. Book of Psalms.  
Writing and the Religious Literatures of the Ancient Near East.  
Cuneiform and West Semitic epigraphy.