

*Philosophy Department*

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Faculty Search Committee  
Department of Philosophy, Religion, and Classics  
Augustana University  
2001 S Summit Ave  
Sioux Falls, SD 57197

Dear Members of the Search Committee,

I am writing in application to the advertised position Assistant Professor of Religion and Philosophy in the Department of Religion, Philosophy, and Classics at Augustana University. I have submitted all required materials in support of my application. I received my undergraduate degree from Augustana University in Philosophy, Religion, and Classics. I received a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, and I am currently completing my dissertation *The Epistemic Significance of Rape Victim Testimony* at Vanderbilt University, with a defense date of August 14, 2018. My teaching specializations are feminist philosophy, epistemology, and ethics, with additional expertise in the history of philosophy, the history of western religion, and philosophy of religion.

My primary teaching goal is to create space where students can have transformative learning experiences. I craft my courses so that students think deeply about themselves and the world around them. For example, in my Introduction to Philosophy class (a course that is historical in nature) and in my Forgiveness, Love, and Justice course, I use readings in philosophy and religion to help students understand the ways in which social and religious norms shape their lives. In all of my courses, I routinely connect course material to popular culture so that students learn how the philosophical and religious concepts we discuss immediately relate to their own lives.

One indication of my teaching success is an invitation by former students to teach the coveted McGill Seminar at Vanderbilt. The McGill Seminar is a seminar that has historical ties

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to the philosophy department, but was only recently reinstated. I developed my Forgiveness, Love, and Justice course for the seminar, and I take my students' insistence that I be the first to teach the McGill seminar upon its reinstatement a positive sign of my teaching effectiveness.

Broadly, my dissertation offers a comprehensive argument in favor of believing rape victims that rape occurred. My work also begins a substantive critique of epistemic norms in mainstream testimonial practices, and it critiques current conceptions of consent in sexual encounters.

Beyond my dissertation, within my current work I am exploring the ways institutions treat victims of sexual violence. I am examining related legal statutes and their interpretation in institutions of higher education. Based on this research, I plan to secure grants to develop guidance for college and university Title IX offices. I am also planning to contribute to scholarly work on sexual violence. I will continue to engage in public philosophy; I have been invited to submit my work to *Aeon*, and so I am currently crafting a submission based on my research.

The *New York Times* published my article "Is There a 'Rational' Punishment for my Rapist?" I have also published "The Possibility of Epistemic Peers and Uncovering Epistemic Asymmetry" in *Syndicate*. I currently have two manuscripts under review at peer-reviewed journals: "Agape and the Limits of Mutuality" is under review at *The Journal of Religious Ethics*, and "The Problem of Universals in Descartes' Dualism" is under review at the *Journal of the History of Philosophy*. I have several papers in manuscript form that I will be sending out to peer-reviewed journals shortly: "On Believing Rape Victims," "Back in Your Gilded Cage, Melanie Daniels: Uncanny Women in Hitchcock's *The Birds*," and "The Rationality of Retributive Desire." I also plan to prepare my dissertation for book publication.

Augustana University's commitment to teaching and the department's synergistic relationship between philosophy, religion, and classics makes this job particularly appealing. I would look forward to developing a course dedicated to theology and culture, because I already informally infuse my courses with cultural ties. My higher education has included heavy emphasis on the history of philosophy and western religion, so I can also envision developing introductory and honors level courses in which students are invited to think deeply about oppressive dynamics in current culture, and the history of philosophy and theology.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my application materials. For your convenience, all application materials (with the exception of recommendation letters) are available at [amberrosecarlson.com/augustana](http://amberrosecarlson.com/augustana). I look forward to hearing from you regarding my application.

Sincerely,

Amber Rose Carlson