

Richard C. Carrier

April 26, 2016

*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. Billows, M.L. Jones, G. Williams, K. Vogt

**M.Phil.** (Ancient History) May 2000  
*Majors:* Greco-Roman Philosophy, Religion, and Historiography  
*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 • 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:**

**Instructor** (Partners for Secular Activism)

2014—present

Teach courses on philosophy, historical method, critical thinking, ancient  
history, origins of Christianity, and the historical study of Jesus. Compose  
lectures & materials; discuss & debate with students using Moodle.

**Visiting Lecturer** (CFI Institute Online)

2011—2013

Teach intro courses on philosophy of naturalism (SEC 224) and free will  
(SCI 224), origins of Christianity (SCI 233), and the historical study of  
Jesus (SCI 221). Compose lectures and materials, discuss and debate with  
students daily using Moodle online interface.

**Freelance Lecturer** (United States and Canada)

2003—present

Present lectures and tutorials on Bayes' Theorem, historical methods, and  
the history and philosophy of science and religion (modern and ancient)  
to dozens of community groups across the U.S. & Canada.

**Columbia University** (New York, NY) 2000—2003

**Librarian's Assistant** (Electronic Texts Service)

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

**Columbia University** (New York, NY) 1997—2000

**Graduate Student Instructor** (Graduate School of Arts and Sciences)

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 and operated classroom visuals, maintained course web pages, designed handouts and online learning aids, graded exams.

**Ventura Community College** (Ventura, CA) 1993—1995

**Tutor** (Campus Education Assistance Center)

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:**

Westar Institute Fellow

Association of Ancient Historians

Society for Classical Studies

Society of Biblical Literature

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 Ribbon	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).

**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 (September-October 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.” *Ibid.*: 2.738.

“Philodemus.” *Ibid.*: 3.897.

“Second Sophistic.” *Ibid.*: 3.995.

“Soranus of Ephesus.” *Ibid.*: 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 (Spr 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,” *The Bible and Interpretation* (April 2012). [online periodical: <http://www.bibleinterp.com/articles/car368023.shtml>]

“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?” *The Bible and Interpretation* (August 2014). [online periodical: <http://www.bibleinterp.com/articles/2014/08/car388028.shtml>]

“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).