

Richard C. Carrier

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*Curriculum Vitae*  
**Richard C. Carrier, Ph.D.**  
(510) 932-9536  
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**EDUCATION:**

**Columbia University** (New York, NY)

<b>Ph.D.</b> (Ancient History) <i>Dissertation:</i> "Attitudes Toward the Natural Philosopher in the Early Roman Empire (100 B.C. to 313 A.D.)" <i>Committee:</i> W.V. Harris, R. Billows, M.L. Jones, G. Williams, K. Vogt	October 2008
<b>M.Phil.</b> (Ancient History) <i>Majors:</i> Greco-Roman Philosophy, Religion, and Historiography <i>Examiners:</i> W.V. Harris, R.S. Bagnall, R.A. Billows, A.D.E. Cameron	May 2000
<b>M.A.</b> (Ancient History)	June 1998

**University of California Berkeley** (Berkeley, CA)

<b>B.A.</b> (major in History with a minor in Classical Civilization)	June 1997
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**Ventura College** (Ventura, CA)

<b>IGETC</b> (Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum)	June 1995
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**United States Coast Guard**

Duty Gunner's Mate Certification Flight Deck Fire Fighter Certification Division Damage Control Petty Officer Certification LAMPS Aviation Ordnance Team Qualification	1992
Digital Electronics Training (San Diego, CA) Sonar Technician School (San Diego, CA)	1991
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:**

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| <p><b>Visiting Lecturer</b> (CFI Institute Online)<br/>Co-taught intro courses on the philosophy of naturalism (SEC 224) and origins of Christianity (SCI 233) with Dr. John Shook. Composed course materials and lectures, and engaged daily with students in topic discussions and debates using Moodle online interface.</p>                                                                                                                                                | 2011         |
| <p><b>Freelance Lecturer</b> (United States and Canada)<br/>Gave lectures and tutorials on Bayes' Theorem, historical method, and the history and philosophy of science and religion to community groups across the U.S. &amp; Canada.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 2003—present |
| <p><b>Columbia University</b> (New York, NY)<br/><b>Librarian's Assistant</b> (Electronic Texts Service)<br/>Taught digital scanning, OCR, and text analysis, and use of related software and hardware to individuals, small groups, and classes.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 2000—2003    |
| <p><b>Columbia University</b> (New York, NY)<br/><b>Graduate Student Instructor</b> (Graduate School of Arts and Sciences)<br/>Assisted professors 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 to classes, led multiple weekly discussion sections, created and operated classroom visuals, maintained course web pages, designed handouts and online learning aids, and graded exams.</p> | 1997—2000    |
| <p><b>Ventura Community College</b> (Ventura, CA)<br/><b>Tutor</b> (Campus Education Assistance Center)<br/>Tutored groups weekly in statistics, geology, philosophy, world religions, physical &amp; cultural anthropology, and American, African, and world history.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 1993—1995    |

**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:**

Association of Ancient Historians  
American Philological Association  
History of Science Society  
Phi Beta Kappa 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

**CONFERENCE PAPERS:**

“Miracles and the Historical Method.” Paper presented at conference *The Trouble with Miracles*, sponsored by Center for Inquiry East. Montclair, New Jersey (20 May 2001).

“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).

**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.

“Neither Life Nor the Universe Appear Intelligently Designed.” *Ibid.*: 279-304.

“Moral Facts Naturally Exist (and Science Could Find Them).” *Ibid.*: 333-64.

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

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

“Thallus and the Darkness at Christ’s Death.” *Journal of Greco-Roman Christianity and Judaism* (2012): [forthcoming]