

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE ICI REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2015 / JANUARY 2016

(a) THE NEXT SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING: SEOUL 2016

The 2016 International Meeting will take place in Seoul from 3–7 July 2016. The **Call for Papers** is open now and will remain open **until 3 February 2016**. See the call at:

http://sbl-site.org/meetings/Congresses_CallForPapers.aspx?MeetingId=28

Another ICI panel discussion will be held there, and more information will be communicated in due time. This will be another excellent opportunity to interact with our Asian colleagues. We wish the local organizing committee well for the hard work that lies ahead.

(b) THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING 2016, SAN ANTONIO

The SBL Annual Meeting will be held from November 19-22, 2016 in San Antonio, Texas. The [Call for Papers](#) is now open, and will remain open until 2 March 2016.

Registration will open later, together with the conference **accommodation reservations**.

An ICI **Forum discussion** will be held again. More information will follow later.

(c) VISA PROBLEMS

We are aware of the fact that many scholars from ICI countries often experience administrative problems to get a visa in time to attend the international and annual SBL conferences. Although bureaucratic protocols beyond our control are often involved in these difficulties, we are having discussions within the ICI leadership on how scholars can be assisted in this regard. SBL staff will work proactively to study the visa requirements of countries where the international meeting will be held and will then post information in this newsletter and on the SBL website to advise scholars in their visa applications. The following guidelines should also be taken into account:

- Start planning your attendance of a particular conference well in advance – at least six months;
- Enquire well in advance from the particular embassy or consulate in your own country what the exact requirements are for applying for a visa, and how long the application would take to process;
- Make absolutely sure that you attend to all the requirements, and that you submit your visa application well in advance;

- Should you need an official invitation letter from the SBL Head Office, or from the organizing committee in the country where the SBL International meeting will take place, request that well in advance in order to include in your visa application (the contact details of the SBL staff member handling these requests is: Samantha Spitzner samantha.spitzner@sbl-site.org);
- Enquire regularly at the embassy or consulate where you have submitted your application.

(d) PUBLICATION IN ANCIENT NEAR EAST MONOGRAPHS (ANEM) / MONOGRAFÍAS SOBRE EL ANTIGUO CERCAÑO ORIENTE (MACO)

ANEM/MACO is a series that was established by the SBL at the request of the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI), and which is co-edited by Alan Lenzi and Juan Tebes. The series publishes volumes on the Ancient Near East (including ancient Israel) electronically and makes them freely available for download. (Paperback and hardback versions of the volumes are available too, for a reasonable price.) Any work published in ANEM/MACO is freely available in electronic version to anyone in perpetuity. To view the volumes published in the series, please go to http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books_ANEmonographs.aspx

The latest volume in ANEM/MACO is:

Political Memory in and after the Persian Empire

Edited by Jason M. Silverman and Caroline Waerzeggers

Various disciplines that deal with Achaemenid rule offer starkly different assessments of Persian kingship. While Assyriologists treat Cyrus's heirs as legitimate successors of the Babylonian kings, biblical scholars often speak of a "kingless era" in which the priesthood took over the function of the Davidic monarch. Egyptologists see their land as uniquely independently minded despite conquests, while Hellenistic scholarship tends to evaluate the interface between Hellenism and native traditions without reference to the previous two centuries of Persian rule. This volume brings together in dialogue a broad array of scholars with the goal of seeking a broader context for assessing Persian kingship through the anthropological concept of political memory.

Features

- Articles present the results of an international symposium held in Leiden, the Netherlands, 2014
- More than twenty illustrations

- Seventeen articles, an introduction, and a summary response

To download the book for free, paste the following link into your browser: (will be available soon)

(e) PUBLICATION IN INTERNATIONAL VOICES IN BIBLICAL STUDIES (IVBS)

IVBS is a series that was established by the SBL at the request of the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI), and which is co-edited by Monica Melanchthon and Jione Havea. IVBS encourages in particular submissions from scholars in the present seven international regions for which it has editorial boards: Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, Middle East-South Asia, Northeast Asia, Pacific, and Southeast Asia. Interregional collaborations are also welcome. IVBS publishes works in English and in any other language for which its editors can find qualified peer reviewers. Any work published in IVBS is freely available to anyone in perpetuity. The series publishes work generally in the area of reception history and criticism. The scope is not limited to any particular biblical text or historical timeframe. The works will mainly be published in English and, wherever possible, also in primary languages of authors. For more information please go to <http://ivbs.sbl-site.org/home.aspx>. If you would consider publishing your work in this series, feel free to contact one of the two general editors, [Monica Melanchthon](#) or [Jione Havea](#).

The latest volume in IVBS is:

Reading Ruth in Asia

Edited by Jione Havea and Peter Lau

To download the book for free, paste the following link into your browser:

http://ivbs.sbl-site.org/uploads/9780884141006_OA.pdf

(f) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS – NEW BOOKS ADDED

(For the full list, please go to http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books_ICIbooks.aspx)

Feminist Biblical Studies in the Twentieth Century: Scholarship and Movement

Fiorenza, Elisabeth Schüssler. *Feminist Biblical Studies in the Twentieth Century: Scholarship and Movement*. The Bible and Women 2. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2014.

This collection of essays on feminist biblical studies in the twentieth century seeks to explore four areas of inquiry demanding further investigation. In the first section, articles chart the beginnings and developments of feminist biblical studies as a conversation among feminists around the world. The second section introduces, reviews, and discusses the hermeneutic religious spaces created by feminist biblical studies. The third segment discusses academic methods of reading and interpretation that dismantle androcentric language and kyriarchal authority. The fourth section returns to the first with work that transgresses academic boundaries in order to exemplify the transforming, inspiring, and institutionalizing feminist work that has been and is being done to change religious mindsets of domination and to enable wo/men to engage in critical readings of the Bible.

Features:

- Essays examine the rupture or break in the male stream reception history of the Bible
- Exploration of the term feminism in different social-cultural and theoretical-religious locations
- Authors from around the world present research and future directions for research challenging the next generation of feminist interpreters

The Studia Philonica Annual: Studies in Hellenistic Judaism, Volume XXIII (2011).

Runia, David T. and Gregory E. Sterling, eds. *The Studia Philonica Annual: Studies in Hellenistic Judaism, Volume XXIII* (2011). Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2011.

The Studia Philonica Annual is a scholarly journal devoted to furthering the study of Hellenistic Judaism, in particular the writings and thought of the Hellenistic-Jewish writer Philo of Alexandria (ca. 15 B.C.E.–ca. 50 C.E.). In addition to bibliography and book review sections, this issue includes the following articles:

- Maren R. Niehoff, “Philo’s Exposition in a Roman Context”
- John T. Conroy Jr., “Philo’s ‘Death of the Soul’: Is This Only a Metaphor?”
- Paul Robertson, “Toward an Understanding of Philo’s and Cicero’s Treatment of Sacrifice”
- Ilaria L. E. Ramelli, “The Birth of the Rome–Alexandria Connection: The Early Sources on Mark and Philo, and the Petrine Tradition”

The Old Greek of Isaiah: An Analysis of Its Pluses and Minuses

Van Der Vorm-Croughs, Mirjam. *The Old Greek of Isaiah: An Analysis of Its Pluses and Minuses*. Septuagint and Cognate Studies 61. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2014.

Van der Vorm-Croughs focuses this translation study on the processes leading to pluses and minuses including linguistic and stylistic aspects (i.e., cases in which elements have been added or omitted for the sake of a proper use of the Greek language), literary aspects (additions and

omissions meant to embellish the Greek text), translation technical aspects (e.g., the avoidance of redundancy), and contextual and intertextual exegesis and harmonization. This work also covers the relation between the Greek Isaiah and its possible Hebrew Vorlage to try to determine which pluses and minuses may have been the result of the translator's use of a different Hebrew text.

Features:

- Eleven categories for the pluses and minuses of the Greek Isaiah
- Examination of translation techniques and translator errors
- Use of Joseph Ziegler's critical edition

The Writings and Later Wisdom Books

Maier, Christl M., and Nuria Calduch-Benages, eds. *The Writings and Later Wisdom Books. The Bible and Women, An Encyclopaedia of Exegesis and Cultural History*. Bible and Women 1.3. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2014.

The latest volume in the Bible and Women series seeks to provide an ecumenical, gender-sensitive interpretation and reception history of the Writings and later wisdom traditions including Ben Sira and the Wisdom of Solomon. Articles trace the living conditions of women, examine the presentation of female figures in the Israelite wisdom tradition, discuss women and gender relations in single books, and explore narratives about great female protagonists, such as Ruth, Esther, and Susanna, who prove their wit and strength in situations of conflict.

Features:

- Essays by scholars from five European countries, Israel, and the United States
- An introduction and fourteen essays focused on women and gender relations
- Coverage of power relations and ideologies within the texts and in current interpretations.

Predicting the Past in the Ancient Near East: Mantic Historiography in Ancient Mesopotamia, Judah, and the Mediterranean World

Neujahr, Matthew. *Predicting the Past in the Ancient Near East: Mantic Historiography in Ancient Mesopotamia, Judah, and the Mediterranean World*. Brown Judaic Studies 354. Providence: Brown Judaic Studies, 2012.

This work provides an in-depth investigation of after-the-fact predictions in ancient Near Eastern texts from roughly 1200 B.C.E.–70 C.E. It argues that the Akkadian, Aramaic, Hebrew, and Greek works discussed are all part of a developing scribal discourse of "mantic historiography" by which scribes blend their local traditions of history writing and predictive texts to produce a new mode of historiographic expression. This in turn calls into question the use and usefulness of traditional literary categories such as "apocalypse" to analyze such works.

(g) ICI TEACHING COLLABORATION PROGRAM

In order to facilitate the exchange of scholars and institutions in biblical studies across the globe, a teaching collaboration program is run by the ICI. The facility consists of lists of scholars and institutions interested in exchanges that are made available on the SBL website. See: <http://sbl-site.org/educational/ICITeaching.aspx>. If you or your institution is interested in such collaboration, please visit the site and enroll yourself in these lists. For more information, contact [Tim Langille](#).

(h) JOURNAL OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE (JBL) ARCHIVE

Take note that an archive with JBL articles from volume 122.1 of 2003 through volume 130.1 of 2011 is now available online to people accessing the SBL website from any ICI country. See http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/ICI_JBLarchive.aspx. All articles in those volumes can be downloaded for free!

(i) THE SBL WEBSITE

Please take note that the SBL website has a new look, reflecting the new corporate identity and logo of the organization. Check out the new functionality and discover all the wonderful resources available there.

The SBL website (on the SBL Press page) has a facility where one can search the full text of all SBL books! For this very convenient tool, see:

<http://sbl-site.org/publications/default.aspx>

For searching reviews of a vast number of academic publications, see the website of Review of Biblical Literature (RBL) at:

<http://www.bookreviews.org/>

(j) EVENTS

The SBL maintains a significant list of events taking place anywhere in the globe. For the full list please go to <http://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/events.aspx>

A selection of events is listed below—mainly those taking place in ICI regions.

Please provide information on conferences in your region, including calls for papers, to Sharon Johnson at sharon.johnson@sbl-site.org.

July 3-7, 2016**2016 SBL International Meeting**

Seoul, South Korea

<http://sbl-site.org/meetings/Internationalmeeting.aspx>

August 2-5, 2016**General Meeting of Studiorum Novi Testament Societas**

Society for New Testament Studies (SNTS) will hold their 2016 General Meeting in Montreal, Canada.

For updates and information, see <https://www.edugroepen.nl/sites/SNTS/default.aspx>

August 9-11, 2016**Ethnicity/Race/Religion: Identities, Ideologies, and Intersections in Biblical Texts and Interpretation (Centre for Biblical Studies, University of Exeter, UK)**

How do ethnicity and race feature in constructions of identity in biblical texts? How have ideologies of race shaped biblical interpretation past and present? And how has the Bible and its interpretation contributed to racial ideologies and racist practices? These are the key issues to be explored in this international conference. Religion and ethnicity or race – the terms are contested and unavoidably loaded – are facets of identity that intersect and overlap in complex and varied ways. They are neither identical nor entirely separable, but clearly bound up in some of the most intractable and prominent conflicts in the contemporary world.

One of the aims of the conference is to explore and to problematize the extent to which the dominant models of biblical scholarship remain ‘Western’ in their assumptions, and to consider what breaking out of these might entail.

Speakers: Professor Musa Dube, University of Botswana Dr Ma. Marilou S. Ibita, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, and the Institute of Formation and Religious Studies, Quezon City, the Philippines. Dr Gregory Cuéllar, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, USA.

[More information.](#)

September 4-9, 2016**2016 Meeting of the International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament (IOSOT)**

For the first time in its more than 50-years history the IOSOT will convene on African soil in 2016. The triennial meeting will take place at the University of Stellenbosch, Western Cape, South Africa. Updates and more information will be posted on the <http://www.iosot2016.co.za/> The **Call for Papers** is now open (until 31 March 2016) at <http://iosot2016.co.za/participate/call-for-papers/>. Register there with your e-mail

address to receive automatic updates and the Call for Papers. Questions contact:
LCJ@sun.ac.za

November 19-22, 2016

2016 SBL Annual Meeting

San Antonio, Texas

<http://sbl-site.org/meetings/Annualmeeting.aspx>

(k) SBL EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FREELY AVAILABLE

There are links to numerous educational resources on the SBL website. The following are freely available: (i) Resources on Teaching the Bible; (ii) Freely downloadable Hebrew, Greek and Transliteration fonts (amongst others); (iii) Resources on Bible translations and commentaries; and (iv) Research tool resources.

See <http://sbl-site.org/educational/default.aspx>

Also remember to check the newly-developed **Bible Odyssey** online portal. See www.bibleodyssey.org. This portal offers wonderful educational resources, but also resources for broader popular audiences. Use this site to popularize our academic studies in faith communities!

(l) PLEASE PASS ON THE INFORMATION

Please share this newsletter with your colleagues and students and become a liaison for your institution and SBL. (Please contact our liaison officer, [Tim Langille](#), if you would like to assist as contact person in your region.) Your advocacy for ICI strengthens biblical studies as a discipline and builds relationships in the global community. Thank you to those who have done so in the past—we also receive letters from people who received the newsletter from someone else.

With best wishes for your Bible scholarship in 2016!

Louis Jonker, SBL – International Cooperation Initiative