

SOUNDING SENSORY PROFILES IN THE
ANCIENT NEAR EAST

SBL Press

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Edited by
Annette Schellenberg and Thomas Krüger

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PREFACE

The senses have attracted much attention in cultural studies in recent times. Which senses are important in different cultures? What is the relationship between sensory experience and reasoning? Which senses are considered reliable sources of knowledge? Which senses are linked to emotions like love or disgust? With which senses are gods or angels perceived? Which experiences of the senses have a part to play in festivals and religious celebrations? How do theory and practice of the senses relate to each other?

In the last few years, questions about the senses have also started to attract the interest of scholars in the fields of Hebrew Bible and ancient Near Eastern studies, which is the focus of this volume. For example, since 2009 there has been a program unit on Senses, Cultures, and the Biblical World at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature; in 2012 Yael Avrahami published a monograph on *The Senses of Scripture: Sensory Perception in the Hebrew Bible* (New York: T&T Clark); 2015 marked the beginning of the interdisciplinary *synaesthesia* project at the University of Toulouse; since 2016 there have been sessions on Senses and Sensibility in the Near East at the Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research; and in 2017 Nicole L. Tilford authored the book *Sensing World, Sensing Wisdom: The Cognitive Foundation of Biblical Metaphors* (Atlanta: SBL Press).

So far, the respective discussions are still very fresh, and most of them take place outside Europe. This prompted us to organize an international and interdisciplinary conference on the topic, inviting many of the pioneers behind the development mentioned above. The conference took place at the University of Vienna on March 23–25, 2017. Its title, and thus the title of this volume, was inspired by an article by David Howes and Constance Classen, “Conclusion: Sounding Sensory Profiles” (pages 257–88 in *The Varieties of Sensory Experience: A Sourcebook in the Anthropology of the Senses*, ed. David Howes [Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1991]), which is reprinted in this volume.

The present volume brings together most of the contributions to this meeting, supplemented by a few other articles on the subject. It offers insights into the meaning of the senses in ancient Israel, Mesopotamia, and Egypt and shows various questions and methods with which this topic can be approached. We hope

that this will provide a stimulus and a basis for further exploration of the senses in the ancient Near East.

We would like to thank the Universities of Vienna and Zurich for funding the conference and the publication of this volume. Our thanks go to everyone who contributed a paper to the conference and to this volume, to Alan Lenzi, Jeffrey Stackert, and the editorial board of the *Ancient Near East Monographs* for the inclusion of this volume in this series, and to Nicole Tilford and the SBL Press staff for their excellent editorial work. Special thanks are due to Jeanine Lefèvre, Nina Beerli, Christian Sichera, and Sarah Herzog for their help in the preparation of the manuscript.

Annette Schellenberg and Thomas Krüger

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ABBREVIATIONS

AB	Anchor Bible
AbB	Kraus, Fritz R., ed. <i>Altbabylonische Briefe in Umschrift und Übersetzung</i> . Leiden: Brill, 1964–.
ABL	Harper, Robert F., ed. <i>Assyrian and Babylonian Letters Belonging to the Kouyunjik Collections of the British Museum</i> . 14 vols. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1892–1914.
AeL	<i>Ägypten und Levante</i>
AfK	<i>Archiv für Keilschriftforschung</i>
AfOB	Archiv für Orientforschung: Beiheft
AHR	<i>American Historical Review</i>
AHw	Von Soden, Wolfram. <i>Akkadisches Handwörterbuch</i> . 3 vols. Wiesbaden, 1965–1981.
AIL	Ancient Israel and Its Literature
AJA	<i>American Journal of Archaeology</i>
AJP	<i>American Journal of Philology</i>
AnBi	Analecta Biblica
AOAT	Alter Orient und Altes Testament
AOS	American Oriental Series
AR	<i>Archiv für Religionsgeschichte</i>
ARM	Archives royales de Mari
AS	Assyriological Studies
ASAW	Abhandlungen der Sächsischen Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Leipzig
ASOR	American Schools of Oriental Research
ATD	Das Alte Testament Deutsch
BASOR	<i>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i>
BDB	Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs. <i>A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> . Oxford: Clarendon, 1907.
BETL	Bibliotheca Ephemeridum Theologicarum Lovaniensium
Bib	<i>Biblica</i>
BibInt	<i>Biblical Interpretation</i>
BibOr	Biblica et Orientalia

<i>BHQ</i>	<i>Biblia Hebraica Quinta</i>
<i>B.J.</i>	Josephus, <i>Bellum judaicum</i>
BKAT	Biblischer Kommentar, Altes Testament
BM	British Museum
BTS	Biblical Tools and Studies
BZAW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft
BZRGG	Beihefte der Zeitschrift für Religions- und Geistesgeschichte
<i>CAD</i>	Gelb, Ignace J., et al., eds. <i>The Assyrian Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago</i> . Chicago: The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, 1956–2006.
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
CBS	Tablets in the collections of the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
CCP	Cuneiform Commentaries Project
<i>CDCH</i>	Clines, David J. A., ed. <i>A Concise Dictionary of Classical Hebrew</i> . Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix, 2009.
CHANE	Culture and History of the Ancient Near East
CM	Cuneiform Monographs
CT	Cuneiform Texts from Babylonian Tablets in the British Museum
D	<i>piel</i>
Dp	<i>pual</i>
<i>DCH</i>	Clines, David J. A., ed. <i>Dictionary of Classical Hebrew</i> . 9 vols. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix, 1993–2016.
<i>DDD</i>	Van der Toorn, Karel, Bob Becking, and Pieter W. van der Horst, eds. <i>Dictionary of Deities and Demons in the Bible</i> . Leiden: Brill, 1995. 2nd rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.
DMOA	Documenta et Monumenta Orientis Antiqui
EA	Egyptian Antiquities (British Museum)
Erm	Ermitage Museum
ESV	English Standard Version
ETCSL	Electronic Text Corpus of Sumerian Literature
FAT	Forschungen zum Alten Testament
FRLANT	Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neuen Testaments
G	<i>qal</i>
H	<i>hiphil</i>
Hp	<i>hophal</i>
HtD	<i>hithpael</i>

<i>HAL</i>	Koehler, Ludwig, Walter Baumgartner, and Johann J. Stamm. <i>Hebräisches und aramäisches Lexikon zum Alten Testament</i> . 3rd ed. Leiden: Brill 1995, 2004.
HANE/M	History of the Ancient Near East/Monographs
HAT	Handbuch zum Alten Testament
<i>HBAI</i>	<i>Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel</i>
HBM	Hebrew Bible Monographs
HBS	Herders Biblische Studien
HCOT	Historical Commentary on the Old Testament
HdO	Handbuch der Orientalistik
HThKAT	Herders Theologischer Kommentar zum Alten Testament
<i>HUCA</i>	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
IOS	Israel Oriental Studies
<i>JAEl</i>	<i>Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections</i>
JALSupp	Supplements to the Journal of Arabic Literature
<i>JANER</i>	<i>Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions</i>
<i>JANES</i>	<i>Journal of the Ancient Near Eastern Society</i>
<i>JAOS</i>	<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i>
Jastrow	Jastrow, Marcus. <i>A Dictionary of the Targumim, the Talmud Babli and Yerushalmi and the Midrashic Literature</i> . Leipzig: Drugulin, 1926.
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>JCS</i>	<i>Journal of Cuneiform Studies</i>
<i>JHI</i>	<i>Journal of the History of Ideas</i>
<i>JHS</i>	<i>Journal of Hellenic Studies</i>
<i>JJS</i>	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>
<i>JNES</i>	<i>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</i>
JPS	<i>Tanakh: The Holy Scriptures: The 1917 Edition according to the Masoretic Text</i>
<i>JSOT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
JSOTSup	Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series
<i>JSSEA</i>	<i>Journal of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities</i>
<i>JSS</i>	<i>Journal of Semitic Studies</i>
Joüon Muraoka	Joüon, Paul, and Takamitsu Muraoka. <i>A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew</i> . SubBi 27. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 2006.
K	cuneiform tablets in the Kouyunjik Collection of the British Museum
<i>KAR</i>	Ebeling, Erich, ed. <i>Keilschrifttexte aus Assur religiösen Inhalts</i> . Leipzig: Hinrichs, 1919–1923.
<i>KBo</i>	<i>Keilschrifttexte aus Boghazköi</i> . Leipzig: Hinrichs, 1916–1923; Berlin: Gebr. Mann, 1954–.
KRI	Kitchen, Kenneth Anderson. <i>Ramesside Inscriptions</i> . 9 vols. Oxford: Blackwell, 1975–2018.

LAOS	Leipziger altorientalische Studien
Lane	Lane, Edward William, ed. <i>An Arabic-English Lexicon</i> . 8 vols. London: Williams & Norgate, 1863–1893.
LHBOTS	The Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies
LKA	Ebeling, Erich. <i>Literarische Keilschrifttexte aus Assur</i> . Berlin: Akademie-Verlag, 1953.
LSJ	Liddell, Henry George, Robert Scott, and Henry Stuart Jones. <i>A Greek-English Lexicon</i> . 9th ed. With revised supplement. Oxford: Clarendon, 1996.
MAD	Materials for the Assyrian Dictionary
MAJA	Münchener Arbeitskreises Junge Ägyptologie
MÄS	Münchener ägyptologische Studien
MC	Mesopotamian Civilizations
MDOG	Mitteilungen der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft
MIFAO	Mémoire publiés par les membres de l'institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale
MSL	<i>Materialien zum sumerischen Lexikon/Materials for the Sumerian Lexicon</i> . 17 vols. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1937–2004.
N	<i>niphal</i>
NABU	<i>Nouvelles assyriologiques brèves et utilitaires</i>
NAC	New American Commentary
NBL	Görg, Manfred, and Bernhard Lang, eds. <i>Neues Bibel-Lexikon</i> . 3 vols. Zurich: Benziger, 1988–2001.
NCB	New Century Bible
NEB.T	Neue Echter Bibel. Themen
NICOT	New International Commentary on the Old Testament
NIV	New International Version
NJPS	<i>Tanakh: The Holy Scriptures: The New JPS Translation according to the Traditional Hebrew Text</i>
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
NSKAT	Neuer Stuttgarter Kommentar, Altes Testament
o.	obverse
OBC	Orientalia Biblica et Christiana
OBO	Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis
OBT	Overtures to Biblical Theology
OIP	Oriental Institute Publications
OLA	Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta
OLP	Orientalia Lovaniensia Periodica
Or	<i>Orientalia (NS)</i>
OTL	Old Testament Library
OtSt	<i>Oudtestamentische Studiën</i>

PAe	Probleme der Ägyptologie
PBS	University of Pennsylvania, Publications of the Babylonian Section
<i>PNAS</i>	<i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America</i>
<i>Poet.</i>	Aristotle, <i>Poetics</i>
r.	reverse
RBS	Resources for Biblical Study
<i>RA</i>	<i>Revue d'assyriologie et d'archéologie orientale</i>
RAI	Rencontre assyriologique internationale
RAPH	Recherches d'archéologie, de philologie et d'histoire
<i>Rhet.</i>	Aristotle, <i>Rhetoric</i>
RIM	The Royal Inscriptions of Mesopotamia Project. Toronto
RIMA 1	Grayson, A. Kirk. <i>Assyrian Rulers of the Third and Second Millennia BC (To 1115 BC)</i> . RIMA 1. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1987.
RIMA 2	Grayson, A. Kirk. <i>Assyrian Rulers of the Early First Millennium BC Part I (1114–859 BC)</i> . RIMA 2. Toronto; Buffalo: University of Toronto Press, 1991.
RIMA 3	Grayson, A. Kirk. <i>Assyrian Rulers of the Early First Millennium BC Part II (858–745 BC)</i> . RIMA 3. Toronto; Buffalo: University of Toronto Press, 1996.
RIMB 2	Frame, Grant. <i>Rulers of Babylonia: From the Second Dynasty of Isin to the End of Assyrian Domination (1157–612 BC)</i> , RIMB 2. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1995.
RINAP 3.1	Grayson, A. K., and J. Novotny. <i>The Royal Inscriptions of Sennacherib, King of Assyria (704–681 BC), Part 1</i> . RINAP 3.1. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2012.
RINAP 3.2	Grayson, A. K., and J. Novotny. <i>The Royal Inscriptions of Sennacherib, King of Assyria (704–681 BC), Part 2</i> . RINAP 3.2. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2014.
RINAP 4	Leichty, E. <i>The Royal Inscriptions of Esarhaddon, King of Assyria (680–669 BC)</i> . RINAP 4. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2011.
<i>RIA</i>	Ebeling, Erich, et al., eds. <i>Reallexikon der Assyriologie</i> . Berlin: de Gruyter, 1928–.
SAA	State Archives of Assyria
<i>SAAB</i>	<i>State Archives of Assyria Bulletin</i>
SAACT	State Archives of Assyria Cuneiform Texts
SAAS	State Archives of Assyria Studies
<i>SAK</i>	<i>Studien zur altägyptischen Kultur</i>
SAK.B	Studien zur altägyptischen Kultur. Beihefte
SAOC	Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilizations

SBTU	Spätbabylonische Texte aus Uruk
SEAL	Sources of Early Akkadian Literature
SHR	Studies in the History of Religions (supplements to <i>Numen</i>)
StBibLit	Studies in Biblical Literature (Lang)
StMes	Studia Mesopotamica
StPohl	Studia Pohl
STT	Oliver Robert Gurney, Jacob J. Finkelstein, and P. Hulin, <i>The Sultantepe Tablets</i> , 1–2 (= OccPubl. BIAA 3 and 7, 1957/1964).
SubBi	Subsidia Biblica
TAD	Textbook of Aramaic Documents from Ancient Egypt. 1986 (= TAD A); 1989 (= TAD B); 1993 (= TAD C)
TAPS	Transactions of the American Philosophical Society
TDOT	Johannes Botterweck, G., and Helmer Ringgren, eds. <i>Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament</i> . Translated by John T. Willis et al. 8 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974–2006.
ThWAT	Johannes Botterweck, G., and Helmer Ringgren, eds. <i>Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Alten Testament</i> . Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 1970–.
TLA	Thesaurus Linguae Aegyptiae
TUAT	Kaiser, Otto, ed. <i>Texte aus der Umwelt des Alten Testaments</i> . Gütersloh: Mohn, 1984–.
UAVA	Untersuchungen zur Assyriologie und vorderasiatischen Archäologie
UF	<i>Ugarit-Forschungen</i>
WAW	Writings from the Ancient World
Wb	Erman, Adolf, and Hermann Grapow. <i>Wörterbuch der ägyptischen Sprache</i> . 5 vols. Leipzig: Hinrichs; Berlin: Akademie, 1926–1931. Repr., 1963.
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary
WiBiLex	Das Wissenschaftliche Bibellexikon im Internet
WMANT	Wissenschaftliche Monographien zum Alten und Neuen Testament
WO	<i>Die Welt des Orients</i>
VT	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
VTSup	Supplements to Vetus Testamentum
VWGTh	Veröffentlichungen der Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft für Theologie
YOS	Yale Oriental Series, Texts
ZA	<i>Zeitschrift für Assyriologie</i>
ZAW	<i>Zeitschrift für alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
ZBK	Zürcher Bibelkommentare
ZTK	<i>Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche</i>