



Daniel McClellan

2023 RICHARDS AWARD FOR PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

We are pleased to announce the 2023 Richards Award for Public Scholarship has been awarded to Daniel McClellan.

Daniel McClellan is an independent scholar of the Bible and religion and an honorary fellow at the University of Birmingham's Cadbury Centre for the Public Understanding of Religion. He received his PhD in 2020 from the University of Exeter, and a revised version of his dissertation—entitled *YHWH's Divine Images: A Cognitive Approach*—was published in 2022 in SBL Press' open-access Ancient Near East Monograph Series. In an effort to increase public access to the academic study of the Bible and religion and combat the spread of misinformation about the same, Daniel teaches regular online classes, cohosts the popular *Data Over Dogma* Podcast with his friend Dan Beecher, and goes by @maklelan on TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter, where he confronts misinformation, shares the state of the field, and responds to questions about the Bible and religion.

The goal of the Richards Award is to honor members of the Society of Biblical Literature who have demonstrated excellence in public scholarship. It seeks to recognize the powerful role of sacred texts in society and how those texts shape culture. The award is given in honor of Kent Richards and on behalf his mother, Eva Richards, who made a difference in seeking the common good, always encouraging the relevance of religion scholarship.

Nominees are evaluated for how they have contributed to and shaped public discourse, broadly defined. This may include writings (including op-ed pieces and blogs), websites attracting the public, public speaking (including media appearances and public lectures), teaching and mentoring, or other means through which the nominee has served the public.