

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE

ICI REPORT FOR MARCH 2024

SBL MISSION STATEMENT

“Foster Academic Scholarship in biblical studies and cognate areas across global boundaries”

THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING 2024, San Diego, CA

November 23-26, 2024. **Call for papers has now closed. Registration is forthcoming.**

THE SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING 2024, AMSTERDAM

July 28-August 1, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands. **Call for papers has now closed. Registration is now open.**

Visa letters for travel to the Annual or International Meetings

To facilitate attendance by those in ICI countries at SBL Congresses, **Samantha Spitzner** has been appointed as the SBL visa coordinator. Samantha will advise members who need visas in order to travel to and participate in the Annual or International Meetings. She will not prepare applications, but will be a source of information to aid members in submitting applications and will provide letters of intent if needed by those participating in the meeting as presenters or committee members. **For more information, please [contact Samantha](#) directly.**

SBL GLOBAL VIRTUAL MEETING, APRIL 1-4, 2024

Call for papers has now closed! Registration is now open. A preliminary schedule is [now available](#) on the meeting platform.

Big news! The ICI Committee will be hosting a session at the Global Virtual Meeting on **Getting Your Work Published!** JBL General Editor Susan Hylen and Managing Editor Jonathan Potter have both agreed to take part. Don't miss it!

SBL INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AWARDS

The SBL International Travel Awards offer opportunities to current SBL members outside North America to attend the Annual or International Meeting, to participate in the program, to enhance their professional development, and to build their network with fellow scholars. These grants help facilitate the work of Program Units and the International Cooperation Initiative (“ICI”). These grants are intended to support underrepresented and under resourced scholars. As such, preference will be given to women, people of historically underrepresented ethnicities, and members from [ICI-qualifying countries](#). *A key criterion is an applicant's demonstrable financial need.*

(The [Regional Scholars Awards](#) are intended to encourage North American members to participate in their region as well as receive travel assistance to the Annual Meeting.)

[Four International Travel Award Panels \(ITAP\)](#) will administer the awards each year, serving four geographic regions:

- Africa and Middle East
- Asia and Pacific
- Eastern Europe
- Latin America and Caribbean

For awards offered in 2024, each ITAP will administer two, \$1,500 awards in each region. The applicants must attend the Annual or International Meetings, but may or may not participate in the program, depending upon their needs expressed in the application. *All grants include lodging (one room, single or shared) for four nights and complimentary meeting registration. Recipients may not have attended an Annual or International Meeting within the last five (5) years.*

Please see the [SBL Meeting International Travel Grants page](#) for information regarding eligibility, award inclusions, application procedure, and criteria for awards.

The International Travel Awards defray transportation, hotel accommodations, and other expenses incurred for the Annual or International Meetings. Award monies will be distributed as reimbursement for expenses incurred for travel to/from the meeting and meals while attending the meeting.

Please contact the [travel grant administrator](#) with any questions.

Deadlines

Travel Grants Awards application for 2024 has now closed. Awards recipients will be announced soon.

[PUBLICATION IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN MONOGRAPHS \(ANEMs\)](#)

The focus of this ambitious series is on the ancient Near East, including ancient Israel and its literature, from the early Neolithic to the early Hellenistic eras. Studies that are heavily philological or archaeological are both suited to this series, and can take full advantage of the hypertext capabilities of “born digital” publication. The series accepts authored works that make a sustained argument across the volume; ANEM no longer considers edited collections. Proposals and manuscripts may be submitted in either English or Spanish. Manuscripts are peer reviewed by at least two scholars in the area before acceptance. Published volumes will be held to the high scholarly standards of the SBL Press and the Centro de Estudios de Historia del Antiguo Oriente. The partnership between the SBL Press and the Centro de Estudios de Historia del Antiguo Oriente was initiated under the auspices of SBL’s International Cooperation Initiative (ICI) and represents the type of international scholarly exchange that is the goal of ICI.

For more information about the series’ editorial and peer review process, contact [Jeffrey Stackert](#). For scholars concerned about open-access publishing and tenure or promotion, Jeffrey Stackert can provide a letter that describes the editorial standards and peer-review process for your tenure/promotion dossier.

PUBLICATION IN INTERNATIONAL VOICES IN BIBLICAL STUDIES (IVBS)

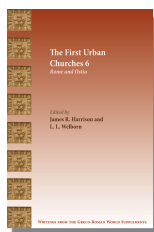
IVBS is a series that was established by the SBL at the request of the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI), and which is edited by Jione Havea. IVBS encourages submissions from scholars in the present seven international regions for which it has editorial boards: Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, 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 [click here](#). If you would consider publishing your work in this series, feel free to contact the general editor, [Jione Havea](#).

ICI ONLINE BOOK REPOSITORY

For a full alphabetic list of all publications available for free in the ICI book repository program, please [click here to enter](#).

*****The ICI Online Book Repository is now available to biblical scholars in Puerto Rico!*****

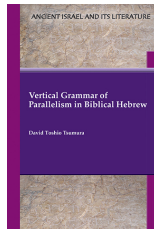
<https://www.sbl-site.org/publications/onlinebooks.aspx>



New volumes added this month!

Harrison, James R., and L. L. Welborn, ed. *The First Urban Churches 7: Thessalonica*. WGRWSup 21. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2022.

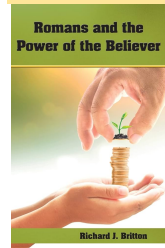
The First Urban Churches 7 includes essays focused on the development of early Christianity from the mid-first century through the sixth century CE in the ancient Macedonian city of Thessalonica. An international group of contributors traces the emergence of Thessalonica's house churches through a close study of the archaeological remains, inscriptions, coins, iconography, and Paul's two letters to the Thessalonians. After a detailed introduction to the city, including the first comprehensive epigraphic profile of Thessalonica from the Hellenistic age to the Roman Empire, topics discussed include the Roman emperor's divine honors, coins and inscriptions as sources of imperial propaganda, Thessalonian family bonds, Paul's apostolic self-image, the role of music at Thessalonica and in early Christianity, and Paul's response to the Thessalonian Jewish community. Contributors include D. Clint Burnett, Alan H. Cadwallader, Rosemary Canavan, James R. Harrison, Julien M. Ogereau, Isaac T. Soon, Angela Standhartinger, Michael P. Theophilos, and Joel R. White.



Tsumura, David Toshio. *Vertical Grammar of Parallelism in Biblical Hebrew*. AIL 47. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2023.

An essential resource for sound exegesis of biblical poetry While previous books on parallelism have focused almost exclusively on semantic classification, in his new

book David Toshio Tsumura focuses on the grammatical and phonetic aspects as well. In particular, he defines and illustrates the vertical grammatical relationship between parallel lines.



Britton, Richard. *Romans and the Power of the Believer*. SemeiaSt 99. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2023.

Richard J. Britton uses the critical theory of Jacques Derrida, Giorgio Agamben, and others to examine the financial, gift, and olive tree metaphors of Paul's Letter to the Romans. Drawing upon papyri about money, gifts, and friendship, Greek and Roman farming handbooks, and later sources, including the Book of Mormon and writings from colonized places, Britton questions the way some people understand faith, grace, and identity in the New Testament and beyond. Britton asserts that the believer is not a passive recipient of God's grace and righteousness but rather an interpreter, reader, and decision maker actively involved in reciprocal exchange and enhancement of God's eschatological and soteriological project. Believers, he concludes, negotiate meaning through their own interaction with texts and traditions in combination with their own personal relationship with the divine and the world. Turning to the contemporary world, Britton contends that, if we want to upend the oppression of established religion and ideology, we must first appreciate the believer as a powerful and responsible agent within God's cosmic project.

PEDAGOGY AND TEACHING SUPPORT PEER BLOG FOR FRIENDS OF THE ICI

During the pandemic the ICI began the Friends of the ICI International Pedagogies blog. You can still find reflections on online teaching and learning, here!

ICI TEACHING COLLABORATION PROGRAM

The Teaching Collaboration Program of SBL's International Cooperation Initiative was established several years ago to facilitate faculty cooperation, including exchange and co-supervision among scholars and institutions in different parts of the world.

ICI Scholar List: <https://www.sbl-site.org/educational/ICIscholarList.aspx>

These scholars have expressed an interest in mentoring students via the Internet, teaching online reading courses, or traveling abroad to teach.

Individuals who need a mentor or institutions who need teachers with a particular area of expertise may review the information provided to find those whose qualifications and time available match their needs. You are invited to contact any of these scholars directly. SBL is not responsible for making arrangements between institutions or students and scholars; SBL serves only as the host of the data so that the interested parties may identify and contact each other.

To be included in the Instructor's Database, please complete the form here <https://www.sbl-site.org/educational/ICIscholar.aspx>

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 available online to people accessing the SBL website from any ICI country. See <http://www.sbl->

[site.org/publications/ICI_JBLarchive.aspx](https://www.sbl-site.org/publications/ICI_JBLarchive.aspx). All articles in those volumes can be downloaded for free!

[THE SBL WEBSITE](#)

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, [click here](#).

For searching reviews of a vast number of academic publications, SBL's *Review of Biblical Literature* is now a part of the new [SBL Central](#) site, where you will find the 10,000+ book reviews that RBL has published since its initial launch in 1998.

JSTOR

The [JSTOR Access Initiative](#) program provides free or reduced-fee access according to a tiered system. It offers unlimited access to a collection of all archival journals and primary sources on JSTOR.

Need JSTOR Access?

As part of your Society of Biblical Literature membership, save 50% on the annual JPASS plan, your personal access to the JSTOR archive.

To access the discounted JPASS, log-in to the SBL website with your member ID. Then, under the tab "Membership," click on "[Member Benefits](#)" and scroll down to "Subscriptions."

UPCOMING EVENTS

The SBL maintains a significant **list of events** taking place anywhere in the globe. [Click here](#) for the full list.

Check out these monthly webinars in the Sage "[How to Get Published](#)" webinar series!

Events in ICI Regions

[2024 Society of Asian Biblical Studies \(SABS\)](#)

SABS will be holding its next biennial meeting in **Yu-Shan Theological College and Seminary in Taiwan, 10-15 July 2024**. The theme for this meeting is "**Biblical Hermeneutics in Indigenous Perspectives.**" For more information, [click here](#).

2025 Oceania Biblical Studies Association (OBSA)

OBSA will be having its next meeting at **Sia'atoutai Theological College**, the Island Kingdom of [Tonga](#), South Pacific, **28-30 August 2025**. More information coming!

[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.

BIBLE ODYSSEY

Remember to check the newly developed [Bible Odyssey online portal](#). This portal offers wonderful educational resources, but also resources for broader popular audiences. Use this site to popularize our academic studies in faith communities! Any topics you would like to see Bible Odyssey address? Just send a message to: bow@sbl-site.org

[Sign up for the Bible Odyssey Newsletter](#)

Bible Odyssey Translation Project

The ICI is taking on the role of networking with other non-anglophone biblical studies learned societies around the world to translate Bible Odyssey articles into several key languages.

There are translations to Vietnamese, made by the Vietnamese Biblical Theology Society (VBTS) <https://www.vietbib.org/>, and to Spanish, made by the Argentinean Biblical Association (ABA), <https://www.abargentina.org/>.

We soon expect more developments for Portuguese, Korean, and Mandarin Chinese. For Chinese, talks are held with the Center for Judaic and Inter-religious Studies at Shandong University. For Portuguese, talks are held with Portuguese Jesuits' Communication Office. Stay tuned for more developments!

PLEASE PASS ON THE INFORMATION

If someone you know anyone has been asking for a quick introduction to the work of the ICI Committee, feel free to direct them to this brief SBL Member Spotlight interview: <https://www.sbl-site.org/membership/MemberSpotlight.aspx>

Please share this newsletter with your colleagues and students and become a liaison for your institution and SBL. 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.

Aroha nui from Oceania!

[Nāsili Vaka'uta](#)

Trinity Theological College | Auckland | Aotearoa New Zealand

Chair | International Cooperation Initiative Committee | Society of Biblical Literature