

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE
ICI REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2022

WORDS OF GRATITUDE TO JOHN F. KUTSKO, SBL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

The ICIC would like to offer our sincere thanks to John F. Kutsko for his collaboration with the ICI and now ICIC, as he concludes his tenure as SBL's Executive Director and embarks on new endeavors after 29 December. Below we offer a few words of appreciation for the myriad ways John has contributed to the work of the ICIC (thank you Jackie du Toit for expressing these shared sentiments so eloquently):

1. John's commitment to the ICI – for example, more than just on paper, he committed of his time and from his talk in Salzburg [at the ICIC session] it was clear how much THOUGHT went into his engagement with this initiative. He took the brief seriously and the novel ideas and suggestions he shared clearly came from deep engagement with the ICI. (For a summary of this session, see here):
<https://internationalpedagogies.wordpress.com/blog-2/>
2. John's accessibility made a huge difference to raising the profile of the ICI.
3. John's leadership in a) committing to initiatives that proved far-sighted and inspired once the pandemic hit, b) recognising the importance of the ICI, c) being responsive to needs of scholars that came to the fore especially during the pandemic, and the d) respectful, caring and compassionate approach to addressing these, are perhaps best expressed by that 27 May 22 letter by SBL announcing the virtual meeting format. https://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/GlobalVirtualMeeting_Announcement_27May22.pdf
4. John was a brave leader willing to think and imagine new ways of doing for a century + old scholarly body. He understood that transformation involved an intellectual commitment.

On behalf of all of us, John, we wish you every ongoing success!

We also congratulate and welcome Tat-siong Benny Liew as Interim Executive Director and look forward to working together!

(a) THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING 2023, San Antonio, Texas

November 18-21, 2023 Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio, Texas, USA. **Call for Papers and Registration are coming soon.**

<https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/AnnualMeeting.aspx>

THE SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING 2023, PRETORIA

July 3-7, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa. **Call for papers is now open!**

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

Visa letters for travel to the Annual or International Meetings

In order 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.

- (b) BIG NEWS!** SBL will launch a **global, virtual meeting, March 27-31, 2023!** This meeting will occur in addition to the in-person Annual and International Meetings.

More information can be found here: <https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/GlobalVirtualMeeting.aspx>

The call for papers for individual presentations and pre-planned sessions is now open!

Related news:

The ICI held a session titled “ICI Post-COVID: Reflections on the Past and Future” at the Salzburg International SBL meeting. Please see the link for a blog summary

of this invigorating session! Topics included on-the-ground effects of COVID on teaching, the future of the virtual meeting, ICI's activities, and regional activities:

<https://internationalpedagogies.wordpress.com/blog-2/>

(c) 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 underresourced 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 2023, 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

The present Travel Grants Awards cycle is now open! Note the deadline of **15 January, 2023.**

The Award Panels

Name	Panel	Term	Years of Term
Pablo R. Andiñach	Latin America and Caribbean	2	2021-2023
Benjamin Giffone	Eastern Europe	2	2021-2023
Madipoane J. Masenya	Africa and Middle East	2	2021-2023
Dora Rudo	Africa and Middle East	2	2021-2023
Mbuwayesango			
Nelson Morales	Latin America and Caribbean	2	2022-2024
Ester Petrenko	Eastern Europe	2	2021-2023
Carmen Palmer (Chair)	All Panels	1	2021-2023
Juan Manuel Tebes	All Panels	2	2021-2023
Nasili Vaka'uta	Asia and Pacific	2	2021-2023
Elaine M. Wainwright	Asia and Pacific	2	2021-2023

(d) PUBLICATION IN ANCIENT NEAR EAST MONOGRAPHS (ANEM)

[http://www.uca.edu.ar/index.php/site/index/es/uca/departamento-de-historia/publicaciones/monografias-sobre-el-antiguo-cercano-oriente/](http://www.uca.edu.ar/index.php/site/index/es/uca/departamento-de-historia/publicaciones/monografias-sobre-el-antiguo-cercano-orient/)

ANEM is a series that was established by the SBL at the request of the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI), jointly published with the Universidad Católica Argentina's Centro de Estudios de Historia del Antiguo Oriente (CEHAO) and co-edited by Jeffrey Stackert and Juan Manuel Tebes. The series publishes volumes on the Ancient Near East (including ancient Israel) both in print and electronically, making them freely available for download. Paperback and hardback versions of the volumes are available, for a reasonable price.

To view the volumes published in the series, please go to

http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books_ANEmonographs.aspx (SBL English version)

<http://www.uca.edu.ar/anem> (CEHAO Spanish version)

New! in ANEM (print versions forthcoming):

McClellan, Daniel O. *YHWH's Divine Images: A Cognitive Approach.*

Ancient Near East Monographs – Monografías sobre el Antiguo

Oriente, Volume 29. Atlanta: SBL Press – Centro de Estudios del

Antiguo Oriente, 2022.

(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](#).

Here is the latest volume of IVBS:

Terror in the Bible: Rhetoric, Gender, and Violence

Edited by Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon and Robyn J. Whitaker.

IVBS 14. Atlanta: SBL, 2021.

This volume of essays, inspired by Phyllis Trible's *Texts of Terror*, examines the terrorizing potential of biblical texts as they intersect with issues of context, gender, caste, violence, and colonization/imperialism. Contributors writing from Australia, India, New Zealand, Tonga, South Africa, and the US interrogate biblical texts from the Hebrew Bible and New Testament to bring to the fore their terrorizing and terrifying potential and their violent and violating impact particularly on women and minoritized men as they intersect with cultures in their home contexts. Essays engage Trible by paying attention to some of the same biblical texts through new questions, extending the repertoire of Trible's terrorizing texts to include those not always seen as texts of terror and stretching and extending her interpretations into new contexts. Contributors include Karen Eller, Rachelle Gilmour, Laura Griffin, Jione Havea, Dorothy A. Lee, Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon, Brent Pelton, Angela Sawyer, David Tombs, Gerald O. West, Robyn J. Whitaker, and Adela Yarbro Collins. A foreword by Phyllis

Trible reflects on what motivated her work and how this volume pushes the academy and the church to deal with the violence inherent in some biblical texts.

A Thank-You Note from Jione Havea on behalf of the IVBS

Editorial Board jhavea@gmail.com:

Jione Havea has been requesting volunteers to assist with proofreading, copyediting, and typesetting manuscripts for authors who write in English as a second language.

Thank you to the volunteers who have responded to the call!

Heather McKay, John Goldingay, Eric Smith, Lynn Huber, Ian Atkinson, Ashraf Hanna, Brenna Salverson, Yan Kalampung, Erin Newton, Olubunmi A. Adegbola.

If you would still like to volunteer, please be in touch with Jione at the email address above.

(f) ICI ONLINE BOOK REPOSITORY

For a **full alphabetic list of all publications available for free in the ICI book repository program**, please go to:

http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books_ICIbooks.aspx

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

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

Check out these volumes added recently!

Allen, Pauline. *John Chrysostom Homilies on Colossians. Writings from the Greco-Roman World 46.* Atlanta: SBL Press, 2021.

Pauline Allen translates Frederick Field's text of John Chrysostom's twelve homilies on Paul's Letter to the Colossians. Chrysostom concentrates in part on the apparently prevalent angel worship in Colossae (in modern Turkey). These homilies provide many details about everyday life in the late Roman period, such as the

position of slaves and their treatment as well as various aspects of raising healthy, educated children. The themes of conflict between pagans, Jews, and Christians in the community, as well as the distinction between rich and poor in late antiquity, run throughout the homilies. This latest text and translation volume from WGRW is an essential resource for scholars and students interested in the history of the church.

Barmash, Pamela, and Mark W. Hamilton, editors. *In the Shadow of Empire: Israel and Judah in the Long Sixth Century BCE*. Archaeology and Biblical Studies 30. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2021.

Readers of the Hebrew Bible know the basic story line: during the early sixth century BCE the Babylonian ruler Nebuchadnezzar sacked Jerusalem, deported a portion of the population to Mesopotamia, and triggered a crisis of faith in the minds of prophets, priests, and liturgists that still echoes through the centuries. Though many Judahites chose to make their way home under Persian imperial control, the straightforward biblical story of exile and return masks many complex issues of evidence and fact. Unlike previous studies that focused narrowly on the Babylonian exile of the Judahite elites, this volume widens the geographical and temporal scope to include the Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian Empires. Improved access to and understanding of relevant texts, iconography, and material culture provide an opportunity for scholars to reappraise methods of imperial control and the responses of those in exile and under occupation. Contributors Pamela Barmash, Ryan P. Bonfiglio, Caralie Cooke, Lisbeth S. Fried, Martien A. Halvorson-Taylor, Mark W. Hamilton, Matt Waters, and Ian D. Wilson lay a firm foundation for future work on the long sixth century.

Schipper, Bernd U. *The Hermeneutics of Torah: Proverbs 2, Deuteronomy, and the Composition of Proverbs 1–9*. Ancient Israel and Its Literature 43. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2021.

This revised and expanded English edition of Bernd U. Schipper's 2012 *Hermeneutik der Tora* incorporates the results of his continued research and writings on Proverbs. For nearly a century, many biblical scholars have argued that the main theological traditions, such as the divine law, God's torah, do not appear in the book of Proverbs. In this volume, however, Schipper demonstrates that Proverbs interacts in a sophisticated way with the concept of the torah. A detailed analysis of Proverbs 2 and other passages from the first part of the book of Proverbs shows that Proverbs engages in a postexilic discourse around "wisdom and torah" concerning the abilities of humans to fulfill the will of YHWH exemplified in the divine torah.

(g) PEDAGOGY AND TEACHING SUPPORT PEER BLOG FOR FRIENDS OF THE ICI

<https://internationalpedagogies.wordpress.com>

POST SUMAMRIZING THE Salzburg SBL ICI Post-COVID SESSION! Other entries are welcome on the topic of pedagogical learnings / teaching adaptations made during the ongoing pandemic. If you would also like to contribute to the Friends of the ICI International Pedagogies blog, please be in touch with [Carmen Palmer](#).

(h) ICI TEACHING COLLABORATION PROGRAM

The Teaching Collaboration Program of SBL's International Cooperation Initiative was established a number of 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 [n.b., when the pandemic is over].

Individuals who need a mentor or institutions who are in need of 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>

(i) 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. All articles in those volumes can be downloaded for free!

(j) 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, see:

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

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.

<https://www.sblcentral.org/home>

(k) JSTOR

News!: "JSTOR and participating publishers are making an expanded set of content freely available to help during the ongoing crisis."

Support for participating institutions

Access to unlicensed collections for participating academic institutions that currently license some, but not all, JSTOR Archive and Primary Source collections through June 30, 2023." **(Extended by a year!)**

https://about.jstor.org/covid19/?utm_source=jstor&utm_medium=display&utm_campaign=dsp_jstor_home_right_covid19_03_2020

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. With more than 1,900 scholarly journals, JSTOR is one of the world's leading academic databases. Millions of users worldwide rely on JSTOR for research, fact checking, and book reviews. This discounted subscription includes unlimited reading access and 120 article downloads. JSTOR adds new titles every month so you'll have a growing collection of the world's leading peer-reviewed journals only a click away.

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."

① UPCOMING 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.

3/24 Call for Papers: CTCL-Symposium 2023 (online)

Pope Francis speaks in *Evangelii Gaudium* "of the need to promote a sound 'decentralization'" (16) mirrored in the newly promulgated Constitution for the Roman Curia and the importance of the Dicastery for Evangelisation for the life of the Church (*Praedicate Evangelium*, Art. 53-58). At the same time, the church in our times is characterised by an abuse of power ultimately leading to a Synodal Pathway that will culminate in a Synod of Bishops on "Communion, Participation, and Mission" in autumn 2023. An important question surrounding these events that this symposium takes as a

hypothesis lies in the right understanding of power in the Church. [More information](#)

4/05-4/07 (2023) Oceania Biblical Studies Association (OBSA) Conference

Theme: Bible, Crises, Healing

Host: Kanana Fou Theological Seminary (American Samoa)

[More information](#)

7/16-7/19 (2023) Call for Papers: "(Anti)-Apocalypticism throughout Antiquity"

The University of Zurich is organising a conference on the subject of "(Anti) Apocalypticism in Antiquity," which is going to take place at the Monte Verità Conference Centre in Ascona, Switzerland, from July 16th to 19th 2023. The event is part of the "Congressi Stefano Franscini" events series. This international congress will serve as a platform for interdisciplinary exchange on the subject of apocalyptic thinking, its critiques, and the cultural and intellectual history surrounding apocalyptic traditions in ancient cultures. Besides a number of invited sessions with participants from the disciplines of theology, history, classics, philology, and other areas of research interested in various ancient cultures, the organisers invite offered papers for contributions of a maximum of 15 to 20 minutes. This call for papers is open to both junior and senior scholars from all disciplines within the study of ancient texts, languages, cultures and thought, while there is some focus on Ancient Near Eastern, Mediterranean, Levantine, Egyptian, and Persian contexts. Scholars researching questions in relation to (anti-) apocalypticism are invited to send abstracts for proposed papers to the organisers by email to the following address: apocalypticism@theol.uzh.ch. Abstracts should be of an approximate length of 300-400 words and be supplemented by a small paragraph describing the scholar's academic background.

8/30-9/01 (2023) Oceania Biblical Studies Association (OBSA) Conference

Theme: Bible, Climate, and Health

Host: Malua Theological Seminary (Samoa)

[More information](#)

(n) 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>

(o) BIBLE ODYSSEY**Great online source in times of the COVID-19 ongoing pandemic**

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! Any topics you would like to see Bible Odyssey address? Just send a message to: bow@sbl-site.org

Check out these recent entries this month from Bible Odyssey:

[Israel as a Person, People, and Place](#)

[Milk and Honey \(Exodus 3:8\)](#)

[Sacrifice in the Ancient Mediterranean World](#)

[The Legacy of the Bible in Justifying Slavery](#)

[Zipporah](#)

[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.

News!: The following Spanish translations have been added recently to Bible Odyssey:

<https://www.bibleodyssey.org/tools/bible-basics/how-do-biblical-scholars-read-the-hebrew-bible-spanish>

<https://www.bibleodyssey.org/passages/related-articles/woman-adulterer-motif-spanish>

<https://www.bibleodyssey.org/tools/bible-basics/did-the-authors-of-the-canonical-gospels-know-each-other-spanish>

<https://www.bibleodyssey.org/passages/main-articles/good-samaritan-spanish>

<https://www.bibleodyssey.org/tools/video-gallery/a/abraham-in-judaism-christianity-and-islam-said-reynolds-spanish>

<https://www.bibleodyssey.org/tools/bible-basics/how-do-biblical-scholars-study-the-new-testament-Spanish>

<https://www.bibleodyssey.org/tools/video-gallery/w/woman-favorite-bible-meyers-Spanish>

<https://www.bibleodyssey.org/en/people/main-articles/Isaac-Spanish>

<https://www.bibleodyssey.org/passages/related-articles/akedah-in-jewish-tradition-spanish>

<https://www.bibleodyssey.org/people/related-articles/postcolonial-reading-of-hagar-spanish>

<https://www.bibleodyssey.org/passages/related-articles/political-significance-of-lukes-christmas-story-spanish>

<https://www.bibleodyssey.org/tools/video-gallery/f/formation-of-the-penteteuch-ska-spanish>

<https://www.bibleodyssey.org/tools/bible-basics/how-has-new-testament-scholarship-changed-over-time-spanish>

<https://www.bibleodyssey.org/tools/bible-basics/gender-and-the-hebrew-bible-spanish>

<https://www.bibleodyssey.org/passages/main-articles/binding-and-sacrifice-of-isaac-spanish>

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!

(p) 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. (Please contact our liaison officer, [Jackie du Toit](#), 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.

Thank you for your ongoing interest and support!

Carmen Palmer
Chair, International Cooperation Initiative of the Society of Biblical Literature