

**SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE**  
**ICI REPORT FOR MAY 2023**

**\*\*THE ICI WELCOMES DR. STEED VERNYL DAVIDSON AS THE NEW SBL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AS OF JUNE 24, 2023! WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU, DR. DAVIDSON!\*\***

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

November 18-21, 2023 Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio, Texas, USA. **Registration is now open!** **Call for Papers is closed.**

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

**(b) THE SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING 2023, PRETORIA**

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

<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.

**(c) SBL launched the inaugural global, virtual meeting, March 27-31, 2023! Registrants still have access to recorded content and presentation materials until 29 May.**

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

The ICI held a networking session during the global virtual meeting. Please see the link for a blog summary of this invigorating session!:

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

**(d) 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 closed.**

### **The Award Panels**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Panel</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Years of Term</u>
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

**(e) 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/>

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](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.**

**(f) 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 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 the general editor, [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.

**(g) 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](http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books_ICIbooks.aspx)

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

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

**Check out this month's newly added volumes!**

**Graves, Michael. *Jerome, Epistle 106 (On the Psalms)*. WGRW 47. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2022.**

Michael Graves offers the first accessible English translation and commentary on Jerome's *Epistle 106*, an important work of patristic biblical interpretation. In his treatise Jerome discusses different textual and exegetical options according to various Greek and Latin copies of the Psalms with input from the Hebrew. *Epistle 106* provides insightful commentary on the Gallican Psalter, Jerome's translation of Origen's hexaplaric edition. Jerome's work offers a unique window into the complex textual state of the Psalter in the late fourth century and serves as an outstanding example of ancient philological scholarship on the Bible.

**Müller, Reinhard, and Juha Pakkala. *Editorial Techniques in the Hebrew Bible: Toward a Refined Literary Criticism*. RBS 97. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2022.**

*Editorial Techniques in the Hebrew Bible: Toward a Refined Literary Criticism* presents and applies a model for understanding and reconstructing the diachronic development of the Hebrew Bible through historical criticism (or the historical-critical method). Reinhard Müller and Juha Pakkala refine the methodologies of literary and redaction criticism through a systematic investigation of the evidence of additions, omissions, replacements, and transpositions that are documented by divergent ancient textual traditions. At stake is not only historical criticism but also the Hebrew Bible as a historical source, for historical criticism has been and continues to be the only method to unwind those scribal changes that left no traces in textual variants.

**Schniedewind, William M., Jason M. Zurawksi, and Gabriele Boccaccini, eds. *Torah: Functions, Meanings, and Diverse Manifestations in Early Judaism and Christianity*. EJL 56. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2022.**

The present volume explores the ever-evolving understandings and diverse manifestations of the Hebrew notion of torah in early Jewish and Christian literature and the different roles torah played within those communities, whether in Judea or in the Hellenistic and early Roman diaspora. This collection of essays is purposefully wide-ranging, with contributors exploring and rethinking some of the most basic scholarly assumptions and preconceptions about the nature of torah in light of new critical approaches and methodologies with the goal of seeing how different vantage points and different conclusions can better address the complexity of the topic and better reflect the ambiguity and fluidity inherent in the concept of torah itself.

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

<https://internationalpedagogies.wordpress.com>

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!

**(i) 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.

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>

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

#### **(k) 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>

#### **(l) 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](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."

### **(m) 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 Eric McDonnell at [eric.mcdonnell@sbl-site.org](mailto:eric.mcdonnell@sbl-site.org).

**(Welcome Eric to the ICI collaboration!)**

**5/14-5/18 Conceptualizing Nature in Eastern Mediterranean Cultures of the Second-First Millennia BCE: The Use of Textual and Pictorial Evidence**

This Emory-TAU colloquium promotes an interdisciplinary conversation around a set of questions shared by Hebrew Bible scholars and scholars of other ancient Near Eastern and East Mediterranean cultures of the second and first millennia BCE. Did these ancient cultures have conceptions of nature? If so, how can we decipher such conceptions of nature in pictorial and literary sources? And further, how do the conceptions of nature in the Hebrew Bible compare with those in its cultural milieu? Sessions will be held in the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History at Tel Aviv University and are free to join. Alternatively, sessions may be joined via Zoom.

[More information](#)

**5/31 Salo W. and Jeannette M. Baron Awards for Scholarly Excellence in Research of the Jewish Experience**

Emanuel Tov will receive the second Salo W. and Jeannette M. Baron Award for Scholarly Excellence in Research on the Jewish Experience. Founded in 2020 by the Salo W. and Jeannette M. Baron Foundation / The Knapp Family Foundation and the University of Vienna, the Baron Award is presented biannually to a recognised scholar for a body of work. Awards will also be presented to two postgraduate students for an individual work representing the highest scholarly achievement. A festive lecture by Emanuel Tov will follow the award ceremony. The event will be hosted via Zoom.

[More information](#)

**6/21-6/23 2023: Interpreting Sacred Texts in Contemporary Africa: Concepts, Methods and Approaches**

This international conference, to be held from June 29 to July 1, 2022 is being organised by the Department for the Study of Religions, University of Ghana, Legon and the Département d'écriture sainte of the Institut de Théologie de la Compagnie de Jesus, (ITCJ), Abidjan. Papers will interpret sacred texts within changing contexts in Africa. [sacredtexts@ug.edu.gh](mailto:sacredtexts@ug.edu.gh).

**7/10-7/13 2023****2023 European Association of Biblical Studies Annual Conference**

The 2023 EABS Annual Conference will be held in Syracuse, Sicily.

[More information](#)

**7/23-7/24 2023**

**The Save Ancient Studies Alliance (SASA) recently announced their third annual free public virtual conference, Opening the Ancient World.** This year's conference is themed "Discovery, Science, and Technology in the Ancient World- Traditions and Innovations."

[More information](#)

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

**Theme: Bible, Climate, and Health**

**Host: Malua Theological Seminary (Samoa)**

[More information](#)

**12/7-12/8 2023**

**Perceptions of Writing in Papyri: Crossing Close and Distant Readings Online Conference**

This online conference will analyze how digital culture has changed the perceptions of writing styles in papyri. Studies conducted by modern scholars have always been the main way of evaluating papyri, determining their dates and content. We will evaluate the current ways scholars view the aesthetics of papyri in a world where close and distant readings are intersecting more every day.

**(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](http://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](mailto:bow@sbl-site.org)

**Check out this recent faculty-undergraduate co-written entry from Bible Odyssey:**

[Rizpah](#)

[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!

### **(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 Committee of the Society of  
Biblical Literature