

## 2019 MIDWEST REGION SBL/ASOR/ASOR/RRA SECTION DESCRIPTIONS

February 8-10, 2019

Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame (South Bend), Indiana

The 2018 Midwest Region SBL/AOS/ASOR/RRA meeting offers twelve Society of Biblical Literature program units spanning the broad range of biblical studies along with a program unit for the American Oriental Society and the American Schools of Oriental Research. **The overall theme for the meeting is “Killing the Prophets.” Papers on other topics are also welcome.**

**All paper proposals for the Midwest Region meeting must be submitted through the online form at <https://goo.gl/forms/HLBq3rJCTAwEgvw03>.**

The form system will generate an automated e-mail confirmation message when the proposal is submitted. Please contact the Regional Coordinator at [midwestsbl@gmail.com](mailto:midwestsbl@gmail.com) if you submit a proposal but do not receive a confirmation message.

**Proposals include the paper title and a 100-word paragraph abstract.** Abstracts will be printed in the conference program and for that reason may not exceed 100 words, but one may also include an additional description up to 500 words alongside (not in place of) the 100-word abstract in order to explain more fully the paper being proposed. **Papers that are accepted for the program will be scheduled in thirty-minute slots, ideally with twenty minutes for presentation and ten minutes for discussion.**

E-mail addresses for the section chairs are included with the section descriptions below. Please contact the appropriate chair if you have *questions* about the section and its program, but **submit all proposals through the online form**. Please contact the Regional Coordinator if you are uncertain about the best section to which to submit your proposal.

A person may submit proposals to present more than one paper, but the same paper may not be submitted to multiple sections. The region's policy is that non-students may present a maximum of two papers at the meeting and graduate students may present one paper. Graduate students who have not previously presented at the Midwest Region meeting (or else the SBL Annual Meeting or International Meeting) must send by e-mail a full manuscript of the paper being proposed to the appropriate section chair no later than December 23, 2018. Graduate students who have presented previously at the Midwest Region meeting (or the SBL Annual/International meetings) are not required to submit the full paper but must indicate in the online proposal form the year and section in which an earlier presentation occurred.

Usually, graduate students who present at the Midwest Region meeting should be enrolled in doctoral programs. Other students should see the information below about the Student Religious Studies Conference (SRSC). Student papers that cannot be included in the Midwest Region program will be referred to the SRSC.

**All proposals for the Midwest Region meeting are due on Saturday, December 1, 2018.** All program decisions will be communicated no later than January 8, 2019. Presenters must be national members of one of the three sponsoring societies – SBL, AOS, or ASOR – and must be registered for the regional meeting by Friday, January 18.

If you are a professor, please also encourage your students to participate in the meeting in two important ways. Please encourage doctoral students to apply for the **Graduate Student Paper Competition**, which offers up to two \$300 awards for outstanding papers. Similarly, please encourage students who are undergraduates through pre-dissertation doctoral students to participate in the **Student Religious Studies Conference (SRSC)** on Friday, February 8, 2019.

Details for both student programs are available at the region's website ([https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/rm\\_midwest.aspx](https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/rm_midwest.aspx)). For SRSC questions, please contact the SRSC coordinator at [Midwest.SBL.SRCS@gmail.com](mailto:Midwest.SBL.SRCS@gmail.com). The SRSC proposal deadline (with full paper) is January 11, 2019. Students presenting at the SRSC do not have to be members of a national society.

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**AOS/ASOR:** Papers on topics in archaeology or any study area within the purview of the AOS or ASOR are welcome, especially (but not exclusively) those on the meeting theme "Killing the Prophets." Please contact JoAnn Scurlock ([r-beal@uchicago.edu](mailto:r-beal@uchicago.edu)) with questions.

**APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE:** This section involves presentations on Jewish and Christian apocalypses and related literature from the "dawn of apocalyptic" through the early Christian church. We also invite papers that deal with later appropriations of ancient texts.

The theme for the 2019 meeting ("Killing the Prophets") is particularly exciting. From a strictly historical point of view, plenty of Jewish prophets (or analogous figures) were killed in the first century (from John the Baptist, to Theudas, to "the Egyptian" until that poor Jesus killed during the siege of Jerusalem as narrated by Josephus). I do not want to mention the more famous Jesus, who was considered a prophet and whose crucifixion seems to have been connected to that idea, but let me remember how important the subject is in early Christian and Jewish literature, from Revelation (I think of Jezebel, the prophetess menaced with Death, and the two "witnesses" of Rev 11, who do bear prophetic attributes) to the traditions regarding Isaiah.

Please remember also that there is no real chronological *terminus ante quem* for our section, as long as apocalyptic texts and traditions are reworked, reinterpreted, re-lived. While all proposals will receive due consideration, those explicitly dealing with the presence of prophets being somehow killed (or at least menaced to be killed) in the texts will receive a special one. For questions, please contact Edmondo Lupieri ([elupier@luc.edu](mailto:elupier@luc.edu)), with "MWSBL" as subject.

**APOCRYPHA AND COGNATE LITERATURE:** The section seeks papers dealing with Apocrypha, Septuagint, Dead Sea Scrolls, and cognate literature of the Greco-Roman world. Papers related to this year's theme ("Killing the Prophets") are welcomed. Please contact Russell Sisson ([rsisson@unionky.edu](mailto:rsisson@unionky.edu)) for more information.

**BIBLE MEANING THROUGH TIME AND TRADITION:** We seek papers on the prophetess Huldah, including biblical appearances in 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles, and later appearances, for example in rabbinic literature. Theological, literary, artistic, or any other interpretations are welcome. The section strives to demonstrate the variety of ways in which the Bible has been understood, adapted, or used through time and in different traditions. Generally, papers covering any interpretation of the passage up to roughly ten years ago should be fine. We welcome submissions from biblical scholars as well as from others with specialized interests. Please contact Stacy Davis ([lieblingbi@aol.com](mailto:lieblingbi@aol.com)) with any questions.

**BIBLICAL GREEK LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS:** Advances in linguistics continue to have relevance and implications for biblical Greek studies. Likewise, given that biblical scholars work with ancient texts and languages, they are uniquely situated to offer insights to those in the field of linguistics and language study. As such, this session highlights studies focused on the linguistic dimensions and/or language-based features of biblical Greek texts. Topics related to phonology, morphology, syntax, discourse, and pragmatics, among related topics, are welcome for submission. Especially welcome are papers related to this year's theme of "Killing the Prophets" and the ways in which communities responded to or rejected prophetic oracles. Please direct questions to [fredrick.long@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:fredrick.long@asburyseminary.edu).

**EARLY CHRISTIAN GOSPELS:** The aim of this section is: (1) to encourage scholarly investigation of the NT and extra-canonical gospels in the Midwest Region; (2) to support scholars of the Midwest Region by providing an annual forum for critical discussion of their work; and, (3) to promote discussion of a wide range of gospel topics for the benefit of all. In 2019, this section will be dedicated to any new work that scholars in the region wish to bring forward. Papers related to the theme of "Killing the Prophets," or the ways in which communities responded to or rejected prophetic oracles are particularly welcomed. All proposals must be submitted through the online system. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Clare K. Rothschild ([ckrothschild@gmail.com](mailto:ckrothschild@gmail.com)) or D. Dale Walker ([d.dale.walker@gmail.com](mailto:d.dale.walker@gmail.com)).

**EARLY CHRISTIANITY: ACTS, APOSTOLIC FATHERS, AND PATRISTICS:** The scope of this section includes the canonical Acts of the Apostles and the extra-canonical texts from the Apostolic Fathers through the fourth century CE. In keeping with the theme of this year's conference, "Killing the Prophets," papers on the ways in which early Christian communities responded to or rejected prophesy and/or prophetic oracles will be especially considered. In addition, we are planning a special session on Christian Antioch (perhaps to continue as a working group over the next few years) and would welcome papers that deal with any aspect of Christian Antioch, including, but

not limited to, individual authors or texts, theological development, Christians within the larger society, Christian-Jewish relations, Christian-pagan relations, or material culture. Papers on other topics will also be considered for a general session. Please direct any questions to both co-chairs, Nancy Pardee ([npardee@uchicago.edu](mailto:npardee@uchicago.edu)) and Chris Shea ([cshea@bsu.edu](mailto:cshea@bsu.edu)).

**HEBREWS AND CATHOLIC EPISTLES:** Two sessions will feature invited papers on James. The section also welcomes proposals engaging other topics concerning Hebrews or the Catholic Epistles, including those that address the conference theme "Killing the Prophets." Please contact Eric F. Mason ([HebrewsCatholicEpistles.MWSBL@gmail.com](mailto:HebrewsCatholicEpistles.MWSBL@gmail.com)) with any questions.

**PAULINE LITERATURE:** This section invites paper proposals on the theme "Love Him or Hate Him: Proponents and Opponents of the Apostle Paul." Proposals on any topic dealing with Paul or the Pauline letter corpus are also welcome. For more information, please contact P. Richard Choi ([choir@andrews.edu](mailto:choir@andrews.edu)) or Troy W. Martin ([martin@sxu.edu](mailto:martin@sxu.edu)).

**PENTATEUCH (HEBREW BIBLE):** This section welcomes proposals on any facet of the Pentateuch/Torah, including its composition, its various components (e.g., narratives, laws, poetry, rituals), and the history of its interpretation. Presenters are encouraged to submit proposals that address this year's theme ("Killing the Prophets"), but papers on all topics pertinent to the section will be considered. For any inquiries, please contact Jeffrey Stackert ([stackert@uchicago.edu](mailto:stackert@uchicago.edu)).

**PROPHETS AND WRITINGS (HEBREW BIBLE):** This section welcomes proposals on any facet of the Former and Latter Prophets (i.e., historical and prophetic books), as well as explorations concerning the texts collected in the Writings section of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. Presenters are encouraged to submit proposals that address this year's theme ("Killing the Prophets"), but papers on all topics pertinent to the section will be considered. Specific questions may be addressed to the section chair, Tom Wetzel ([twetzel@luc.edu](mailto:twetzel@luc.edu)), with "MWSBL" noted in subject line.

**TEACHING THE BIBLE:** This section invites proposals that focus on enhancing teaching and learning in the biblical/religious studies classroom. Proposals addressing this year's theme "Killing the Prophets" are especially encouraged. Papers that focus on how prophetic/biblical texts are relevant to contemporary cultural, social, and political issues in a diverse classroom are especially pertinent, but all papers discussing pedagogical approaches to the bible will be considered. Please direct inquiries to Teresa Calpino ([tcalpino@luc.edu](mailto:tcalpino@luc.edu)).

**TEXTUAL CRITICISM AND PAPHYROLOGY:** This section welcomes presentations that examine ancient writing materials and the history of manuscript transmission as well as studies that help understand text types, variants, corruption, and adaptation of the texts in relation to Jewish, Christian, and Greco-Roman social and religious contexts. If you have any questions, please contact Sylvie Raquel at [sraquel@tiu.edu](mailto:sraquel@tiu.edu).