

2020 MIDWEST REGION SBL/ASOR/ASOR/RRA SECTION DESCRIPTIONS

February 7-9, 2020

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

The 2020 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 “Methods in Biblical Studies.” Papers on other topics are also welcome.**

All paper proposals for the Midwest Region meeting must be submitted through the online form at

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/16mA3PygTCGTMQv6fDxWF7k1VedioF7_jk7yLq846su8/edit

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 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, 2019. 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 Sunday, December 1, 2019. All program decisions will be communicated no later than January 8, 2020. 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 17.

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 three \$400 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 7, 2020.

Details for both student programs are available at the region's website (https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/rm_midwest.aspx). For SRSC questions, please contact the SRSC coordinator at Midwest.SBL.SRCS@gmail.com. The SRSC proposal deadline (with full paper) is January 10, 2020. 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 "Methods in Biblical Studies." Please contact JoAnn Scurlock (r-beal@uchicago.edu) with questions.

APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE: This section invites presentations on Jewish and Christian apocalypses and related literature, both canonical and non-canonical, from the "dawn of apocalyptic" through the early Christian church. We also encourage papers that deal with later appropriations of ancient texts (sort of "Reception History" of apocalyptic themes).

The theme for the 2020 meeting ("Methods in Biblical Studies") offers a great opportunity to reflect on the various methodologies, both new and traditional, which can be applied to the study of apocalyptic texts and traditions. Additionally, discussions of didactic aspects (how the methods applied to research can and do affect pedagogy in relation to apocalyptic texts) can also inform our reflections.

Particularly, we hope to be able to dedicate one whole session to Media/Performance Criticism of Revelation and other apocalyptic texts and traditions.

The section on the Bible and Popular Culture: Science Fiction and the section on Apocalyptic Literature will organize a combined session on "Popular Culture and Apocalyptic Themes." Interested people are invited to submit their proposals to both sections.

While all proposals will receive due consideration, those explicitly dealing with new methodologies (or critical evaluations of any methodology) for the study of apocalyptic texts and traditions will receive a special focus.

For questions, please contact Edmondo Lupieri (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 (“Methods in Biblical Studies”) are welcomed. Please contact Russell Sisson (rsisson@unionky.edu) for more information.

BIBLE AND POPULAR CULTURE: SCIENCE FICTION

This section welcomes proposals that highlight the intersection between Biblical texts and narratives from popular culture (literature, television, and film). This year will focus on presentations that draw parallels with the genre of science fiction. In keeping with this year's theme (Methods in Biblical Studies), this section especially invites proposals that understand sci-fi narrative as utilizing or demonstrating interpretive methods common to Biblical studies. The section on the Bible and Popular Culture: Science Fiction and the section on Apocalyptic Literature will organize a combined session on “Popular Culture and Apocalyptic Themes.” Interested people are invited to submit their proposals to both sections. Please contact Lauren O’Connell (loconnell1@luc.edu) with any questions.

BIBLE MEANING THROUGH TIME AND TRADITION: We seek papers addressing the history of interpretation of any biblical passage. 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) 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, “Methods in Biblical Studies.” Please direct questions to 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 2020, this section will be dedicated to any new work that scholars in the region wish to bring forward. 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) or D. Dale Walker (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, "Methods in Biblical Studies," papers that illustrate how the application of a specific methodology draws out new or additional meaning to a biblical or related text will be especially considered. Papers on other topics will also be considered for a general session. Please direct any questions to both co-chairs, Nancy Pardee (npardee@chicago.edu) and Chris Shea (cshea@bsu.edu).

HEBREWS AND CATHOLIC EPISTLES: The unit invites proposals on any topics related to Hebrews and the Catholic Epistles--including papers on the conference theme "Methods in Biblical Studies"--for one session at the meeting. Two other sessions with invited panelists will be devoted to the question "What Is 1 Peter?" Please contact Eric F. Mason (ericfmason@gmail.com) with any questions.

HEBREW BIBLE: This section welcomes proposals on any facet of the Hebrew Bible, including its composition, cultural context, language, genres, thematics, and history of interpretation. Presenters are encouraged to submit proposals that address this year's meeting theme, but papers on all topics pertinent to the section will be considered. For any inquiries, please contact Jeffrey Stackert (stackert@uchicago.edu).

PAULINE LITERATURE: This section invites paper proposals on the theme "Methods of Bible Study: Paul after the New Perspective." 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) or Troy W. Martin (martin@sxu.edu).

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 "Methods in Biblical Studies" are especially encouraged. Papers that focus on how the 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 (tcalpin@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.