

Congratulations to the 2020 SBL Travel Award Recipients



Erin Martine Sessions is the recipient of the inaugural Australian College of Theology Female Candidate Scholarship and is working towards her PhD on Song of Songs as a model for the primary prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. She is a lecturer in Integrative Studies at Excelsia College, Sydney, and is an Associate of Common Grace. Erin is an errant poet, errant academic, and was recently longlisted for the Paraclete Poetry Prize. She bends time and space to binge-watch Netflix.



Gesila Nneka Uzukwu (PhD) is a lecturer in New Testament Studies in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, under the Faculty of Arts in Nasarawa State University, Nasarawa State. She also teaches biblical courses at the Missionary Seminary of St Paul Gwagwalada, Abuja. She obtained her Master's degree in Religious Studies and a PhD in Biblical Exegesis from Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium. With her Doctoral Dissertation in 2011 she was acknowledged as the first African Woman to have obtained a Doctorate with a major in Biblical Exegesis in Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium.



Jones Otisi Kalu is an ordained minister with the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria. Currently lecturing in New Testament, Pauline Studies, NT Greek, and Hermeneutics/Exegesis at Hugh Goldie Theological Institution, he is also the Registrar of the college. He holds a Bachelor of Divinity and Master of Arts (New Testament), and is now at the writing-up stage of his PhD research (University of Nigeria). His PhD thesis on Paul's concept of generosity in 2 Corinthians 8 is part of his overarching research interest: Paul's theology of generosity and its implications for the church today, particularly in Africa



László Sándor Egeresi (PhD) is an Assistant Professor and Chair of Old Testament Studies at Károli Gáspár Reformed University. His research interests include Biblical Hebrew lexicography, Old Testament Exegesis, historical background of the Old Testament.



Nicola Ernst is a PhD candidate at the University of Exeter. Her thesis is focussed upon the Sons of Constantine and Ecclesiastical Politics, and is supervised by Prof. Richard Flower. She previously completed her MPhil 'Pagan Emperors and Religious Policies' at the University of Queensland, Australia. She is currently funded by the A.G. Leventis Foundation.



Pablo Jaruf received his PhD in History at Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina. He is a research member of the Instituto de Historia Antigua Oriental at the same university. He is specializing in the Late Prehistory and Early Bronze Age of the Southern Levant. He has field experience in archaeological sites of Tell es-Safi/Gath and Tel Erani (Israel). He is currently studying the iconography of the Ghassulian Chalcolithic period.



Pawel Plichta (PhD) is an assistant professor at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow (Poland). His scientific interests focus on the Tanakh and Bible as a multifaceted culture-forming texts and its reception in cultures, cultural history issues, including the history of religion, interreligious and intercultural relations, memory studies. He deals with cultural heritage with particular emphasis on contemporary revival of medieval tradition of the Way of Saint James in Spain, France, Portugal and Middle and East Europe.



Robert Setio (PhD) is an associate professor and Dean of the Faculty at Duta Wacana Christian University. He received his PhD from Glasgow University. His interests include Old Testament, philosophical hermeneutics, apocalypticism, postcolonial readings, postmodernism, ideological criticism, contextual theology, and globalization.



Wellington Casagrande has a Master's degree in Theology at Faculdades EST. Professionally he has worked as an online Tutor for two years at South American Theology Seminary (Londrina-PR). He is a Baptist Pastor and works as Chaplain at the Brazilian Air Force. Wellington is currently doing his PhD at Faculdades EST. He has experience in the field of theology and mainly in the following themes: consumerism, capitalism, liturgy, and the hermeneutics of the inter-religious dialogue and textual criticism of the New Testament.

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 International Travel Awards defray transportation, hotel accommodations, and other expenses incurred for the Annual or International Meetings.

Four International Travel Award Panels (ITAP) administer the awards each year, serving four geographic regions:

- Africa and Middle East- Madipoane Masenya, Dora Mbuwayesango, Juan Tebes
- Asia and Pacific- Elaine Wainwright, Nasili Vaka'uta, Juan Tebes
- Eastern Europe- Ester Petrenko, Benjamin Giffone, Juan Tebes
- Latin America and Caribbean- Pablo Andiñach, Nelson Morales, Juan Tebes

We would like express our sincere thanks to all applicants and donors of the Society. Your contributions to the Society of Biblical Literature strengthen our mission to foster biblical scholarship globally.