



Julia Rhyder

2021 David Noel Freedman Award for Excellence and Creativity in Hebrew Bible Scholarship

We are pleased to announce that the 2021 David Noel Freedman Award for Excellence and Creativity in Hebrew Bible Scholarship has been awarded to Julia Rhyder for her paper entitled, “The Origins of the Jewish Pig Taboo: Pig Consumption and Ethnicity from Leviticus to the Maccabees.”

Julia Rhyder takes up the position of Assistant Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University in July 2021. Her research on the Hebrew Bible embraces a broad approach to the study of biblical texts that focuses not only on the context of their composition but also on their transmission and reception in ancient Judaism. Rhyder’s first book, *Centralizing the Cult: The Holiness Legislation in Leviticus 17–26* (Mohr Siebeck, 2019) was the joint winner of the 2021 Manfred Lautenschlaeger Award for Theological Promise. Rhyder has published articles in the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, *Dead Sea Discoveries*, *Zeitschrift für die alttestamentlich Wissenschaft*, *Semitica*, and *Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel*. Her current book project, begun as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Basel, explores the commemoration of warfare in festivals of the Hebrew Bible and Second Temple traditions.

The goal of the Freedman Award is to promote excellence and creativity in Hebrew Bible scholarship. The award is given to a member who has received a Ph.D. or Th.D. in biblical studies or related field within the last ten years and includes a cash prize of \$1,000.00. Papers for this award are evaluated on the basis of three categories:

- Persuasive thesis that engages the Hebrew Bible
- Clarity of expression and thought
- Originality and creativity

The members of the 2021 Freedman Award Committee are Alejandro Botta (Boston University), Cynthia Shafer-Elliott (William Jessup University), and Nili Wazana (Hebrew University of Jerusalem).

The call for papers for the 2022 David Noel Freedman Award will open by October 1, 2021. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Freedman family and the numerous contributors for making this scholarship award possible. [Please consider a gift today to the David Noel Freedman Award Fund.](#)