

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE
ICI REPORT FOR APRIL 2021

(a) THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING 2021, SAN ANTONIO

November 20-23, 2021, San Antonio, Texas, USA. **Call for Papers: Closed.**

See this link: <https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/Annualmeeting.aspx>.

(b) THE SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING 2021, CANTERBURY

July 25-29 2021, University of Kent, Canterbury, United Kingdom. **Meeting in Canterbury Cancelled**, due to ongoing health risks and travel restrictions associated with COVID-19. **“The SBL Council, staff, and the International Meeting Program Committee are exploring options and alternatives to the face-to-face meeting and a typical program. Stay tuned for announcements in the coming weeks.”**

See this link: <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 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 2021, each ITAP will administer \$3,000 in awards in each region. The panels may determine the best distribution of funds (e.g., as one \$1000 and one \$2000 award, or as three awards of \$1000 each). 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.

Please see the [SBL Meeting International Travel Grants page](#) for information regarding eligibility, award inclusions, application procedure, and criteria for awards.

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.

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** to applications.

15 April 2021: Award decisions will be announced for 2021.

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	1	2019-2021
Ester Petrenko	Eastern Europe	2	2021-2023
Juan Manuel Tebes (Chair)	All Panels	2	2021-2023
Nasili Vaka'uta	Asia and Pacific	2	2021-2023
Elaine M. Wainwright	Asia and Pacific	2	2021-2023

(d) PUBLICATION IN ANCIENT NEAR EAST MONOGRAPHS (ANEM)

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 (SBL English version)

<http://www.uca.edu.ar/anem> (CEHAO Spanish version)

The latest volume in ANEM is:

SCHELLENBERG, Annette, Thomas KRUGER (eds.) Sounding Sensory Profiles in The Ancient Near East. Ancient Near East Monographs – Monografías sobre el Antiguo Oriente, Volume 25. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature – Centro de Estudios del Antiguo Oriente, 2019. 422 pp. ISBN 9781628372410

An interdisciplinary essay collection from an international group of experts.

For several decades sociologists and cultural anthropologists have intensively researched the role of the senses in a variety of cultures, and their studies show how diverse cultures understand and evaluate the five or more senses differently. In this collection of eighteen essays, biblical and ancient Near Eastern scholars, as well as cultural anthropologists, apply the questions and methods from anthropological and sociological studies to Israel, Mesopotamia, and Egypt. Experts offer insights into the meaning of the senses in the ancient world, examining the classical senses (seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, tasting) as well as other senses (such as kinesthesia and the sense of balance) and sense-related issues (such as disgust, sensory imagination, and disabilities). This collection provides a stimulus and a basis for students and scholars to explore the senses in the ancient Near East.

Features:

- Exploration of the relationship between sensory experience and reasoning.
- Assessments of how theory and practice of the senses relate to each other.
- Essays examining connections between emotions and senses.

(e) 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 co-edited by Monica Melanchthon and 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 one of the two general editors, [Monica Melanchthon](#) or [Jione Havea](#).

The latest volume of IVBS is:

Welcoming the Nations: International Sociorhetorical Explorations

Vernon K. Robbins (Editor), Roy R. Jeal (Editor)

Innovative ideas and interpretations.

This volume celebrates and reflects upon sociorhetorical interpretation of the New Testament as developed by Vernon K. Robbins in *The Tapestry of Early Christian Discourse* (Routledge) and *Exploring the Texture of Texts* (Continuum), both published in 1996. Scholars from around the world take sociorhetorical interpretation into new arenas to approach issues arising from their own contexts, including the environment, gender, and economics. Part 1 focuses on the development and emergence of sociorhetorical interpretation. Part 2 presents particular applications of sociorhetorical interpretation in Australia and Oceania. Part 3 includes essays using sociorhetorical interpretation in Africa and Asia. The essays in this book point to the richness and ever-expanding possibilities for sociorhetorical commentary and the learning that enriches all of us.

Request! from Jione Havea on behalf of the IVBS Editorial Board
jhavea@gmail.com:

For several of the authors who publish with IVBS, English is a second, third, fourth and even fifth language. This applies also to several of the board members. The review and editing processes can be painful for the authors as well as the IVBS Editor. Request: ICI asks members of SBL (e.g., retired scholars) who could volunteer to proofread, copyedit, typeset manuscripts for authors who write in English as a second language. We will gather a list of volunteers to help the work of IVBS authors and editors, with their names, contacts, areas of specialization, and the service they are willing to perform (e.g., proofread, copyedit, typeset, index). Then IVBS will request for assistance through ICI.

(f) 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

A number of volumes have been added to the repository! Recent additions include the following volumes:

Black, Fiona C., and Jennifer L. Koosed, eds. *Reading with Feeling: Affect Theory and the Bible*. Semeia Studies 95. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

The psychological approach known as affect theory focuses on bodily feelings—depression, happiness, disgust, love—and can illuminate both texts and their interpretations. In this collection of essays scholars break new ground in biblical interpretation by deploying a range of affect-theoretical approaches in their interpretations of texts. Contributors direct their attention to the political, social, and cultural formation of emotion and other precognitive forces as a corrective to more traditional historical-critical methods and postmodern approaches. The inclusion of response essays results in a rich transdisciplinary dialog, with, for example, history, classics, and philosophy. Fiona C. Black, Amy C. Cottrill, Rhiannon Graybill, Jennifer L. Koosed, Joseph Marchal, Robert Seesengood, Ken Stone, and Jay Twomey engage a range of texts from biblical, to prayers, to graphic novels. Erin Runions and Stephen D. Moore’s responses push the conversation in new fruitful directions.

Capek, Filip, and Oded Lipschits, eds. *The Last Century in the History of Judah: The Seventh Century BCE in Archaeological, Historical, and Biblical Perspectives*. Ancient Israel and Its Literature 37. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

Experts from a variety of disciplines examine the history of Judah during the seventh century BCE, the last century of the kingdom’s existence. This important era is well defined historically and archaeologically beginning with the destruction layers left behind by Sennacherib’s Assyrian campaign (701 BCE) and ending with levels of destruction resulting from Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylonian campaign (588–586 BCE). Eleven essays develop the current ongoing discussion about Judah during this period and extend the debate to include further important insights in the fields of archaeology, history, cult, and the interpretation of Old Testament texts.

Henze, Matthias, and Liv Ingeborg Lied, eds. *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha: Fifty Years of the Pseudepigrapha Section at the SBL*. Early Judaism and Its Literature 50. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

This collection of essays by some of the most important scholars in the fields of early Judaism and Christianity celebrates fifty years of the study of the Old

Testament Pseudepigrapha at the Society of Biblical Literature and the pioneering scholars who introduced the Pseudepigrapha to the Society. Since its early days as a breakfast meeting in 1969, the Pseudepigrapha Section has provided a forum for a rigorous discussion of these understudied texts and their relevance for Judaism and Christianity. Contributors recount the history of the section's beginnings, critically examine the vivid debates that shaped the discipline, and challenge future generations to expand the field in new interdisciplinary directions.

Holtz, Shalom E. *Praying Legally*. Brown Judaic Studies 364. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

In biblical and other ancient Near Eastern sources, prayer is an opportunity to make one's case before divine judges. Prayers were formulated using courtroom or trial language, including demands for judgment, confessions, and accusations. The presence of these legal concepts reveals ancient Near Eastern thoughts about what takes place when one prays. Holtz highlights legal concepts that appear in prayers, including the motif of the speakers' oppression in Psalms the possibility of countersuit against God through prayer, and divine attention and inattention as legal responses. By reading ancient prayers together with legal texts, this book shows how speakers took advantage of prayer as an opportunity to have their day in the divine court and even sue against divine injustice.

Kitzberger, Ingrid Rosa. *Interfigural Readings of the Gospel of John*. Early Christianity and Its Literature. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

This volume of collected essays introduces the concept of interfigurality, the interrelations and interdependence between characters in the Gospel of John and in the Synoptic Gospels and the Hebrew Bible. The essays are informed by a narrative-critical reader-response, (post)feminist hermeneutics and an autobiographical approach to biblical texts. This volume encourages transformative encounters between present-day readers and the ancient biblical texts.

Mason, Eric F., and Darian R. Lockett, eds. *Reading the Epistle of James: A Resource for Students*. Resources for Biblical Study 94. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

This accessible introduction to contemporary scholarship on the Epistle of James begins with chapters that consider possible sources and backgrounds used by the author of James, the genre and literary structure of the book, and its major theological themes. Building on this foundation, subsequent chapters examine James through social-scientific readings, perspectives of Latin American immigrants and the marginalized, and major recent developments in textual criticism. The final chapters in the volume address the relationship between the epistle and the historical James, reception of the epistle in the early church, and major Catholic and Protestant interpretations of the book in the Reformation era. The contributions in this volume distill a range of important issues for readers undertaking a serious study of this letter for the first time.

Runia, David T., and Gregory E. Sterling, eds. *Studia Philonica Annual: Studies in Hellenistic Judaism, Volume XXXI*. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

The *Studia Philonica Annual* is a scholarly journal devoted to the study of Hellenistic Judaism, particularly the writings and thought of the Hellenistic-Jewish writer Philo of Alexandria. This volume includes articles on allegory, Platonic interpretations of the law, rhetoric, and Philo's thoughts on reincarnation.

Sader, Hélène. *The History and Archaeology of Phoenicia*. Archaeology and Biblical Studies 25. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

Hélène Sader presents the history and archaeology of Phoenicia based on the available contemporary written sources and the results of archaeological excavations in Phoenicia proper. Sader explores the origin of the term *Phoenicia*; the political and geographical history of the city-states Arwad, Byblos, Sidon, and Tyre; and topography, climate, and natural resources of the Phoenician homeland. Her limited focus on Phoenicia proper, in contrast to previous studies that included information from Phoenician colonies, presents the bare realities of the opportunities and difficulties shaping Phoenician life. Sader's evaluation and synthesis of the evidence offers a corrective to the common assumption of a unified Phoenician kingdom.

Wyant, Jennifer S. *Beyond Mary or Martha: Reclaiming Ancient Models of Discipleship*. Emory Studies in Early Christianity 21. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

Beyond Mary or Martha: Reclaiming Ancient Models of Discipleship dives into the complicated reception history of Mary and Martha of Bethany, who have been at the center of many debates for almost two thousand years. Jennifer S. Wyant begins her study with a close reading of the sisters' first encounter with Jesus in Luke 10:38–42, then moves on to patristic, medieval, and modern interpretations of that narrative. Wyant tracks how Mary and Martha both became paradigms of discipleship, revealing the inherent tension within Christianity between contemplative practices and acts of service. By placing ancient debates alongside more modern ones, she argues that, contrary to discussions today within academic and religious circles, gender is not the most important aspect of their story.

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

<https://internationalpedagogies.wordpress.com>

If you would also like to contribute to the Friends of the ICI International Pedagogies blog, please be in touch with Carmen Palmer at carmen.palmer@mail.utoronto.ca

(h) ICI TEACHING COLLABORATION PROGRAM

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there is an explosion of demand for online teaching and learning. For that reason, it's a perfect time to alert biblical scholars and students of the Teaching Collaboration Program of SBL's International Cooperation Initiative, established 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 [n.b., when the pandemic is over].

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>

(i) 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. All articles in those volumes can be downloaded for free!

(j) 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>

New! Announcing Custom Book Notifications:

“SBL Central’s book notifications alert you as soon as new books are added to the site and when new reviews are published. Not only are these alerts more timely, but they are also tailored to your specific interests: you receive notifications only for books and reviews tagged with the subjects that you select. To take advantage of this powerful new feature, go to [SBL Central](#) and Sign In using the button in the upper right corner. (SBL Central uses the same email address and password you use to log in at the [main SBL website](#).) Once you are signed in, click on your name in the upper right corner to display a dropdown menu and select Manage Book Notifications. The Manage Book Notifications page displays a list of Available Subjects on the left and all your Selected Subjects on the right. Subjects are arranged into two broad groups, Methods and Texts, each of which contains multiple subsets. Methods, for example, contains the subsets Archaeology and Iconography, Comparative Religion/History of Religion, Epigraphy and Paleography, History and Culture, and so on. Each subset contains a list of specific subjects that you may select for an alert. Double-click an individual subject or use the blue arrow buttons to move it to or from your Selected Subjects. Once you have selected your subjects of interest, click the Submit button to save. You’ll now receive a weekly email listing all the new books and reviews added to SBL Central in your selected subjects, with links to book pages. If you are interested in volunteering to review for *RBL*, this is a great way to be updated on books newly available for review (scroll to the bottom of any book page to see if it’s available).

We will continue to send the weekly *RBL* newsletter announcing all reviews published in the past week. SBL Central book notifications complement the *RBL* newsletter by alerting you as soon as new books are added to the site and by allowing you to choose your own subjects of interest.”

(k) JSTOR

News!: JSTOR resources during COVID-19. Last updated: 5 January, 2021

“To support our institutions during this challenging time, JSTOR and our participating publishers are making an expanded set of content freely available to our participating institutions where students have been displaced due to COVID-19”.

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.”

(l) UPCOMING EVENTS

News!: Please check carefully all links because some if not all of these events may have been moved or cancelled due to the COVID-19 emergency.

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 Sharon Johnson at sharon.johnson@sbl-site.org.

2021**3/31 Imagine Your Career: How Imagine PhD Can Support a Job Search**

Learn to assess your skills, interests and values, map those onto career paths, and create an individual development plan that supports your professional and personal development. Imagine PhD (though *not* just for PhDs!) is a free and confidential online tool that helps you explore careers and articulate your professional skills and interests in written materials and when speaking to potential employers. This webinar will include a general overview of the tool as well as some specific strategies for making the most use of its features. Register for this free webinar [here](#).

7/25-7/29 SBL International Meeting

University of Kent, Canterbury, England: **(Meeting in Canterbury cancelled, see “b” above for more information).**

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

10/20-10/21 Biblical Anthropology - a Message for Contemporary Man

The Pontifical Biblical Commission together with the Institute of Biblical Studies at The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin organize a conference “Biblical Anthropology - a Message for Contemporary Man” .

Due to pandemic restrictions, the conference will be held on the Internet, via the Zoom platform.

(m) 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>

(n) BIBLE ODYSSEY**News!:** Great online source in times of the COVID-19 emergency

Remember to check the newly-developed **Bible Odyssey** online portal. See 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

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.

News!: The first batch of translations are available. These 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!

(o) PLEASE PASS ON THE INFORMATION

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 of the Society of Biblical Literature