

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE ICI REPORT FOR MARCH 2019

(a) THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING 2019, SAN DIEGO

The next SBL Annual Meeting will take place in Denver, Colorado, from 23 to 26 November 2019. The Call for Papers is **open**, Registering is not open yet. Program Book is not yet available.

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

(b) THE SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING 2019, ROME

The next SBL International Meeting will take place in the Pontifical Biblical Institute and the Gregorian University, Rome, from 1 to 5 July 2019. The Call for Papers is **closed**, Registering is **open**. Program Book is not yet available.

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.

SBL INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AWARDS

The applications to the SBL International Travel Awards are being reviewed and award decisions will be announced on **15 April 2019**.

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.

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 2018, 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. 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.

<https://www.sbl-site.org/membership/AMtravelgrant.aspx>

(c) **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:

BOSWORTH, David A. House of Weeping: The Motif of Tears in Akkadian and Hebrew Prayers. Ancient Near East Monographs – Monografías sobre el Antiguo Oriente, Volume 24. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature – Centro de Estudios del Antiguo Oriente, 2019. 184 pp. ISBN 9781628372359

Explore the meaning and effects of weeping in ancient texts.

David A. Bosworth draws on scientific research on weeping to understand references to a petitioner's tears in biblical and other ancient Near Eastern prayers. Drawing from Hebrew and Akkadian texts, Bosworth illustrates how weeping reflects helplessness and being overwhelmed with emotion as well as how tears often motivate others to help. Because people turn to prayer at times of extreme distress, weeping and prayer may reinforce one another as strategies to move the deity to offer assistance. For example, when prayers that mention weeping assume that the deity is angry, tears function as part of calming divine wrath. Bosworth's substantive engagement with the sciences demonstrates how scientific scholarship can enhance humanities research and vice versa.

- A theory of prayer drawn from scientific studies of emotion regulation.
- Corpus-based research that permits analysis of the distribution of the weeping motif in diverse genres.
- Substantive comparisons between biblical and Mesopotamian prayers without treating either as secondary or collapsing their differences.

**(d) 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 in IVBS is:

Fetalsana-Apura, Lily. A Filipino Resistance Reading of Joshua 1:1-9. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

Go beyond historical questions.

Lily Fetalsana-Apura reads Joshua 1:1–9, a text that has been used to legitimize Western conquests and imperialism, as a resistance text. Using contextual hermeneutics, the author reads the Former Prophets as countering and resisting impositions of surrounding imperial forces. Read in the context of four hundred years of colonial victimization and a continuing struggle against neocolonialism, Fetalsana-Apura interprets Joshua 1:1–9 as exhorting strength and courage against exploitation and domination by empire. She reveals the Western context and interests reflected in many books and commentaries and outlines instead how

the text's meaning can be translated as resisting empire to marginalized and exploited communities such as the Philippines.

Features:

- A critique of Western biblical studies that exclusively focus on historical and theological readings.
- An outline of exegetical and hermeneutical procedures for contextual interpretation.
- Identification of themes and concepts in the Deuteronomistic History that subvert imperial ideology.

PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS

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

New books added to the repository!:

Ubierna, Pablo and Héctor R. Francisco. *Apuntes de Siríaco. Breve introducción a la lengua y literatura siríacas. Byzantina & Orientalia Studia, Adnotationes Linguarum I. Buenos Aires, Instituto Multidisciplinario de Historia y Ciencias Humanas, 2018.*

Estos *Apuntes de Siríaco* tienen como propósito acercar materiales para comenzar el estudio de la lengua y la tradición cultural siríaca. El siríaco es una lengua perteneciente a la tradición aramea que desde sus orígenes literarios en el s. II de nuestra era se transformó en la lengua literaria (filosófica, teológica, histórica) de los cristianos de tradición aramea, siendo hasta hoy la lengua litúrgica. El presente volumen incluye una introducción a los instrumentos de trabajo, una descripción de la lengua para ser trabajada en clase así como una crestomatía de textos y ejemplos paleográficos.

These *Notes on Syriac* are intended to provide materials to begin the study of the Syriac language and cultural tradition. Syriac is a language belonging to the

Aramaic tradition that since its literary origins in the 2nd century AD became the literary language (philosophical, theological, historical) of the Christians of the Aramaic tradition, and is still the liturgical language today. The present volume includes an introduction to the working tools, a description of the language to be worked on in class as well as a chrestomathy of texts and palaeographic examples.

Ro, Johannes Unsok. Poverty, Law, and Divine Justice in Persian and Hellenistic Judah. *Ancient Israel and Its Literature* 32. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2018.

Johannes Unsok Ro employs philological, historical, and sociological approaches to investigate the close connections between socioeconomic structures, social inequality, and theological developments in the Judean communities in Persian- and Hellenistic-era Palestine. Ro contends that competing points of view from communities of lay returnees, priestly returnees, and communities of resident Judeans and Samaritans were juxtaposed within the Hebrew Bible, which took shape during the postexilic period. By exploring issues such as the relationship between the shaping of the canon and literacy in the Judean community, the term strangers in the biblical law codes, the socioeconomic structures of Judean communities reflected in the biblical law codes, the development of the theological concept of divine punitive justice, the piety of the poor in certain psalms, and the concept of poverty in the Dead Sea Scrolls, Ro illustrates that the communities behind each text and its redactions can be ascertained through sociological and theological lenses.

Tan, Andrew Kimseng. The Rhetoric of Abraham's Faith in Romans 4. *Emory Studies in Early Christianity* 20. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2018.

Andrew Kimseng Tan examines Romans using sociorhetorical interpretation to determine how Paul attempted to alleviate dissension between Judean (or "Jewish") and non-Judean (or "gentile") Christians. Through his analysis of Paul's rhetoric, Tan reveals that Paul used Abraham's faith in Genesis to demonstrate that the both groups were equally children and heirs of Abraham whose acceptance by God was through the same kind of faith that Abraham possessed, not through the

Mosaic law, which Judean Christians claimed gave them a special honored status with God.

JSTOR provides free or low cost access to more than 1,500 institutions in 69 countries

More than 1,500 institutions in Africa and other developing nations receive access to JSTOR free of charge or for steeply reduced fees. This is made possible through a combination of philanthropic support and the fees paid by libraries in other countries around the world, as well as publishers' eagerness to support this work. More information is available about JSTOR's [African Access Initiative](#) and [Developing Nations Access Initiative](#) programs.

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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. Just below where you entered your member ID, click membership benefits. You will see JSTOR's JPASS among the benefits and a link "To get your savings: click here."

(e) ICI TEACHING COLLABORATION PROGRAM

In order to facilitate the exchange of scholars and institutions in biblical studies across the globe, a teaching collaboration program is run by the ICI. The facility consists of lists of scholars and institutions interested in exchanges that are made available on the SBL website.

See: <http://sbl-site.org/educational/ICITeaching.aspx>. If you or your institution is interested in such collaboration, please visit the site and enroll yourself in these lists. For more information, contact [Jackie du Toit](mailto:Jackie.du.Toit@sbl-site.org).

(f) 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!

(g) 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, see the website of Review of Biblical Literature (RBL) at (you have to log in with your membership number):

<http://www.bookreviews.org/>

(h) EVENTS

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.

2019

5/7-5/9 Jesus and the Pharisees: An Interdisciplinary Reappraisal

This international conference held at Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, will bring together Jewish, Protestant, Catholic, and other scholars from Argentina, Austria, Canada, Colombia, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, and the United States. The conference first deals with the possible origins and meanings of

the name “Pharisee” in different languages. It then examines the various ancient sources about the Pharisees (Josephus, Qumran, archaeological data, the New Testament, and Rabbinic Literature). The second part of the conference will be devoted to Wirkungsgeschichte, from Patristic Literature, to Medieval Jewish interpretations, to Passion Plays, the Movies, Religion Text Books, and Homiletics. In the end, we will look at possible ways to represent the Pharisees less inadequately in the future.

<https://www.jesusandthepharisees.org/>

5/20-5/31 2019 Nida School of Translation Studies

The Nida School of Translation Studies exists to advance research in translation through a transdisciplinary approach that brings together varying perspectives and methodologies, while challenging traditional boundaries and encouraging original thinking about what translation is and the roles it plays in a globalized world. The theme of our 2019 session, Translating and Interpreting in Contexts of Conflict and Crisis calls participants to engage in an exploration of the many complex challenges, both practical and ethical, that are faced daily by translators and interpreters working in fragile contexts and crisis situations. Location: Misano Adriatico, Italy.

<http://www.nidaschool.org/events/nsts-2019>

6/24-6/25 New Song: Biblical Hebrew Poetry as Jewish and Christian Scripture for the 21st Century

This conference will explore the significance of the poetic medium (difficulties, dynamics, and demands on readers) in the ongoing interpretive engagement with Biblical Hebrew poetry as scripture. Participants will hear from and discuss with leading scholars from around the world (incl. Ellen Davis, Benjamin Sommer, & John Goldingay), each with their own approaches to how the poetry of the OT/HB might be recontextualized in contemporary contexts. The conference is located at Ushaw College (Durham, UK) and co-sponsored by Durham University's Centre for the Study of Jewish Culture, Society, and Politics and the Centre for Catholic Studies. Registration closes May 27.

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/theology.religion/ccs/events/conferences/newsong/>

7/1-7/5 SBL International Meeting

Our host institutions are the Pontifical Biblical Institute and the Gregorian University, Rome, Italy.

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

7/16-7/19 Congreso Internacional de Estudios Bíblicos

Con ocasión de cumplirse los 80 años de la Revista Bíblica, la “Asociación Bíblica Argentina” (ABA) y los Consejos Editoriales de la Revista, junto con la “Asociación Brasileira de Pesquisa Bíblica” (ABIB), la Asociación Bíblica Chilena (ABCh), la Asociación de Biblistas de México y varios colegas de distintos países latinoamericanos y de los Estados Unidos, hemos organizado un “Congreso Internacional de Estudios Bíblicos” que tendrá lugar en la sede de Buenos Aires de la Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina “Santa María de los Buenos Aires”.

On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of Revista Bíblica, the “Asociación Bíblica Argentina” (ABA) and the Revista Editorial Board, together with the “Asociación Brasileira de Pesquisa Bíblica” (ABIB), the Asociación Bíblica Chilena (ABCh), the Asociación de Biblistas de México and several colleagues from different Latin American countries and the United States, have organized an “International Congress of Biblical Studies” that will take place in the Buenos Aires headquarters of the Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina “Santa María de los Buenos Aires”.

<http://congresobiblico2019.org/>

7/21-7/24 The British Association of Jewish Studies Conference

BAJS Annual Conference will be held at the University of Oxford. Theme: What is Commentary?

<https://britishjewishstudies.org/about/conference-2018/>

07/24-07/26 Colloquium Biblicum Lovaniense LXVIII, 2019 (President: Judith Lieu, University of Cambridge)

Whereas in the past interest in Peter has largely focussed on the ecclesiastical or institutional dynamics of the Petrine traditions, or on Peter as a shadowy foil for Paul, mediating between him and James as the representative of 'Jewish Christianity', recent study has offered fresh insights into both the canonical letters that bear his name, but also into the range of non-canonical 'Petrine' texts as well as into the development of the traditions regarding his death and burial. It is therefore a very apposite time to hold a Colloquium which will bring together both established and more early career scholars who have been at the centre of these diverse new developments, and stimulate dialogue and deeper analysis. The Proceedings of the Colloquium are expected to make a significant contribution to the role and representation of Peter and associated writings in the Early Church and to their reception. CALL FOR SHORT PAPERS: Short paper proposals (including name, institutional affiliation, postal address, e-mail address, title and abstract of ca. 200 words) should be sent to: Judith Lieu, President CBL 2019, jml68@cam.ac.uk no later than 31 March 2019.

https://theo.kuleuven.be/en/research/centres/centr_collbibl

7/30-8/2 Society for New Testament Studies

SNTS 2019 General Meeting will be held in Marburg, Germany.

<http://snts.international/general-meetings/>

8/4-8/9 International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament

The 23rd Congress of IOSOT will be held at the University of Aberdeen.

<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/events/conferences/iosot/index.php>

8/11-8/14 European Association of Biblical Studies

2019 Annual Conference will be held in Warsaw, Poland.

<https://www.eabs.net/>

8/23-8/29 2020 IAHR World Congress

The 22nd Quinquennial World Conference of the International Association for the History of Religion (IAHR) will be in Dunedin, New Zealand.

<https://www.iahr2020.kiwi/>

9/2-9/13 Oxford Biblical Hebrew Summer School

Ten days of intensive teaching in biblical Hebrew - at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies. The course corresponds to two terms of intensive teaching for a full-time university student and is open to students with or without experience of the language. The cost of the school is £300 per student for 30 hours of language instruction.

<https://www.ochjs.ac.uk/biblical-hebrew-summer-school/>

10/23-10/24 Signs, Wonders and Mighty Works: God's Activity in the History of Salvation

The Institute of Biblical Studies at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland, is hosting an international biblical conference dealing with the theme of miracles in the Bible and extra-biblical traditions of the ancient Mediterranean world.

<http://ocs.academicon.pl/index.php/test/Miracles/index>

(i) 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>

Also 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

(j) 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.

Thanks a lot for your interest and spread the word!

Juan

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