

## SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE ICI REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2017

### (a) THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING 2017, BOSTON

The next SBL Annual Meeting will take place in Boston, Massachusetts, from 18-21 November 2017. The Call for Papers has closed already, and registration is open. See this link: <https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/Annualmeeting.aspx>

**TAKE NOTE** that no **ICI Forum Meeting** will take place at the Boston SBL meeting. Our experience in the past was that participants' conference programmes are so full with other obligations that there is hardly time to attend the forum meeting. Attendance at the Annual Meeting was therefore low in the past, and we are dropping this from the programme. However, it will definitely continue at the International Meetings (the next one in 2018 will be held in Helsinki) where it had been well attended in the past.

**TAKE NOTE ABOUT VISA APPLICATIONS:** We have taken note that some changes have taken place under the new presidency in the United States with reference to immigration and visas. The SBL Executive is monitoring the situation and will keep its membership and the ICI updated on any further developments. If you plan to go to Boston and have to apply for a visa, please plan ahead so that your application will be submitted well in advance. (See also the attached e-mail from the SBL Executive Director, dr John Kutsko, about visa applications.)

For those who still do not have accommodation and are looking for **more affordable accommodation at the Boston meeting**, the following list may be of assistance. PLEASE TAKE NOTE that these accommodation options are provided as a courtesy to ICI members, and that the ICI and SBL do not take any responsibility for reservations, quality or safety of these lodgings.

HI Boston**	<a href="http://www.bostonhostel.org">www.bostonhostel.org</a>	19 Stuart Street, Boston, MA 02116	\$60
Armory Guest House**	<a href="http://www.thearmoryhouse.com">www.thearmoryhouse.com</a>	62-64 Amory Street, Cambridge, MA 02139	\$86
Quarters on DOT by Short Term Rentals Boston	<a href="http://www.shorttermrentalsboston.com">www.shorttermrentalsboston.com</a>	80 Dorchester Street, Boston, MA 02127	\$100
La Quinta Inn & Suites Boston - Somerville	<a href="http://www.lq.com">www.lq.com</a>	23 Cummings St., Somerville, MA 02145	\$105
Ramada Boston	<a href="http://www.wyndhamhotels.com">www.wyndhamhotels.com</a>	800 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02122	\$119
Best Western Plus Boston Hotel	<a href="http://www.bestwestern.com">www.bestwestern.com</a>	891 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, MA 02118	\$122

Coolidge Corner Guest House**	<a href="http://www.brooklinebedandbreakfast.com">www.brooklinebedandbreakfast.com</a>	17-19 Littell Road, Brookline, MA 02146-6504	\$129
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\*\*Hostel or guest house may have common shared dormitories or bathrooms

### (b) THE SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING 2018, HELSINKI

The next SBL International Meeting will take place in Helsinki, Finland, from 30 July to 3 August 2018. **The Call for Papers is now open.** See this link: <https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/Internationalmeeting.aspx>

A forum meeting of ICI will again take place at the Helsinki conference. The details will be conveyed through this newsletter at a later stage.

### (c) **NEW!!!! SBL INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AWARDS**

The SBL will be expanding its international travel award program in the near future. The following is planned:

“As of December 1, 2017, the SBL International Travel Awards program will begin accepting applications. 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, ethnic/racial minorities, 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: Asia and Pacific; Latin America and Caribbean; Africa and Middle East; and Eastern Europe.

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.

**Further news about this exciting development will be conveyed through this newsletter, and the call for applications will also be circulated through the ICI newsletter address list. We are in the process of putting the infrastructure in place to start receiving**

applications from 1 December. The ICI Executive Committee will also discuss and plan the matter in full at its meeting at the Boston conference.

**(d) PUBLICATION IN ANCIENT NEAR EAST MONOGRAPHS (ANEM) / MONOGRAFÍAS SOBRE EL ANTIGUO CERCAÑO ORIENTE (MACO)**

ANEM/MACO is a series that was established by the SBL at the request of the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI), and which is co-edited by Alan Lenzi and Juan Tebes. The series publishes volumes on the Ancient Near East (including ancient Israel) electronically and makes them freely available for download. (Paperback and hardback versions of the volumes are available too, for a reasonable price.) Any work published in ANEM/MACO is freely available in electronic version to anyone in perpetuity. To view the volumes published in the series, please go to [http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books\\_ANEmonographs.aspx](http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books_ANEmonographs.aspx)

The latest volumes in ANEM/MACO is:

**Household and Family Religion in Persian-Period Judah: An Archaeological Approach**

By José E. Balcells Gallarreta

Balcells Gallarreta investigates the ritual artifacts from Persian period Tell en-Nasbeh in their original contexts, as a case study that provides a deeper understanding of the religious ideas and practices of households in Persian period Judah. Unlike previous scholarship that focused on official or state religion, he utilizes archaeology of religion and domestic contexts to reveal the existence of household religion and rituals in Persian period Tell en-Nasbeh, along with other contemporary sites in Yehud. Archaeological data from Tell en-Nasbeh and other sites in the Shephelah region of Yehud demonstrate that family and household rituals and religion were practiced in Persian period Judah.

**Features:**

- Examination of remains from an extensively excavated site
- Maps, tables, photos, and illustrations
- Analysis of Persian-period biblical texts

To download the book for free, paste the following link into your browser:

[https://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/pubs/9780884142256\\_OA.pdf](https://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/pubs/9780884142256_OA.pdf)

**(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 in IVBS is:

**A Samoan Reading of Discipleship in Matthew**

By Vaitusi Nofoaiga

The Bible contains a collection of perspectives that should not be privileged over and against the perspectives of readers from other lands. This book offers an alternative understanding of discipleship under the influence of the Samoan tautua (servant), for whom the needs of family and local people are foremost, and approaches in biblical criticism that affirm locatedness of readers. Because discipleship is also about place, which might be in-between spaces, Nofoaiga offers tautuaileva (service in-between spaces) readings of Matthew 4:12–25 and Matthew 7:24–8:22 that emphasize place (Galilee) as well as the marginalized and excluded (the crowd). With the twirlings and ebbings expected from natives of oral cultures, Nofoaiga holds the complexity of tautuaileva in this study and offers it as his contribution to the assembling and assembly of islander criticism

**Features**

- Tautuaileva, or service in-between spaces or in relational places, as a method of islander criticism
- A critique of traditional interpretations of the meaning of discipleship as abandoning family, duty, and responsibility

- Glossary of important Samoan terms and phrases

To download the book for free, paste the following link into your browser:

[https://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/pubs/9780884142621\\_OA.pdf](https://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/pubs/9780884142621_OA.pdf)

**(f) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS – NEW BOOKS ADDED**

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](http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books_ICIbooks.aspx))

***The Death and Resurrection of the Author and Other Feminist Essays on the Bible.***

Schaberg, Jane Dewar. *The Death and Resurrection of the Author and Other Feminist Essays on the Bible*. The Bible in the Modern World 51. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press 2012.

This volume brings together fourteen of Schaberg's essays on feminist approaches to scholarship and teaching, studies on women in the Christian Scriptures, feminist scholarship and modern media, and responses to backlash against feminism.

***The Vision of the Priestly Narrative: Its Genre and Hermeneutics of Time***

Boorer, Suzanne. *The Vision of the Priestly Narrative: Its Genre and Hermeneutics of Time*. Ancient Israel and Its Literature 27. Atlanta: SBL Press 2016.

Boorer explores the theology of an originally independent Priestly narrative (Pg), extending through Genesis to Numbers, as a whole. In this book she describes the structure of the Priestly narrative, in particular its coherent sequential and parallel patterns. Boorer argues that at every point in the narrative's sequential and parallel structure, it reshapes past traditions, synthesizing these with contemporary and unique elements into future visions, in a way that is akin to the timelessness of liturgical texts.

***The First Urban Churches 2: Roman Corinth***

Harrison, James R., and L. L. Welborn, eds. *The First Urban Churches 2: Roman Corinth*. Writings from the Greco-Roman World Supplement Series 8. Atlanta: SBL Press 2016.

Volume two of *The First Urban Churches* focuses on the urban context of Christian churches in first-century Roman Corinth. An investigation of the material evidence of Corinth helps readers today understand properly the challenges, threats, and opportunities that the early Corinthian believers faced in the city. The essays demonstrate decisively the difference that such an approach makes in grappling with the meaning and context of the Corinthian epistles in the New Testament.

### ***Bible through the Lens of Trauma***

Boase, Elizabeth, and Christopher G. Frechette, eds. *Bible through the Lens of Trauma*. Semeia Studies 86. Atlanta: SBL Press 2016.

In recent years there has been a surge of interest in trauma, trauma theory, and its application to the biblical text. This collection of essays explores the usefulness of employing trauma theory as a lens through which to read the biblical texts. Each of the essays explores the concept of how trauma might be defined and applied in biblical studies. Using a range of different but intersecting theories of trauma, the essays reflect on the value of trauma studies for offering new insights into the biblical text. Including contributions from biblical scholars, as well as systematic and pastoral theologians, this book provides a timely critical reflection on this emerging discussion.

### ***Womanist Interpretations of the Bible: Expanding the Discourse***

Byron, Gay L., and Vanessa Lovelace. *Womanist Interpretations of the Bible: Expanding the Discourse*. Semeia Studies 85. Atlanta: SBL Press 2016.

Gay L. Byron and Vanessa Lovelace bring together scholars from the US, the Caribbean, and India in this collection of cross-generational and cross-cultural readings of the Bible and other sacred sources. Each article addresses contemporary topics, including the #BlackLivesMatter movement, domestic violence, and human trafficking, while at the same time uncovering the complicated portrayals of children, women, and other marginalized persons in biblical narratives. Contributors employ gender and feminist criticism, social-scientific methods, postcolonial and psychoanalytical theory, and hip-hop culture to reveal the inherently intersectional dynamics of race, gender, and class at work in womanist thought and analysis.

### **Other Publishers' Resources and Resources in Spanish**

**NEW!** The **Chicago Assyrian Dictionary**, an amazing and invaluable resource, is now available for **free download** from the following [site](#):

Oxford University Press offers free and reduced rate access to dozens of countries. Learn more on their [website](#).

We thank the Instituto Multidisciplinario de Historia y Ciencias Humanas who is willing to make some direct links to free Spanish publications available on the ICI book repository page. See the following [link](#). Links are available there to the following books (in Spanish):

- Excavation reports of Tell el-Ghaba (Egypt)
- Study of Stela of Gebel Barkal (Egypt)
- Proceedings I institute workshop (includes articles on ANE)
- Proceedings II institute workshop (includes articles on ANE)
- Proceedings III institute workshop (includes articles on ANE)

There is also a link to the following Spanish journal:

- Journal of Egyptological Studies

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.

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. 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."

**(g) 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](#).

**(h) 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](http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/ICI_JBLarchive.aspx). All articles in those volumes can be downloaded for free!

**(i) EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENT: IMAGINEPHD!!!!**

The Society of Biblical Literature is delighted to announce its sponsorship of a valuable new service, [ImaginePhD](#). Developed by the Graduate Career Consortium with experts from over fifty academic institutions and professional organizations, ImaginePhD helps users explore careers that PhDs in the humanities and social sciences can pursue, provides categories of popular job sectors, suggests tools for skill development and ways to transfer skills across settings, and offers search strategies.

**For access to this service, consult the attached e-mail for further instructions.**

**(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, see the website of Review of Biblical Literature (RBL) at (you have to log in with your membership number): <http://www.bookreviews.org/>

## **(k) 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](mailto:sharon.johnson@sbl-site.org).

### **November 18-21, 2017**

#### **2017 SBL Annual Meeting**

Boston, Massachusetts

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

### **November 17-20, 2017**

#### **International Qur'anic Studies Association Meeting**

(Held in conjunction with the SBL/AAR Annual Meetings)

Boston, Massachusetts

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

### **July 16-29, 2018**

#### **Religion and Empire: Agency and Intersecting Identities**

COMCAR colloquia are designed to help faculty in early Christian studies and allied fields incorporate archaeological materials into their research and teaching. The 2018 colloquium will focus on Rome, Naples, Pompeii, and environs. Participants will engage in the following activities: site visits and museum visits with specialists; meetings with archaeologists and other scholars about the significance of sites and about recent discoveries; short presentations by participants about her/his work; plenary discussions of themes from site visits and presentations; and informal conversations over meals, in the bus, and elsewhere.

For more information, see:

<https://comcarsite.wordpress.com/>

### **July 30 – August 3, 2018**

#### **2018 SBL International Meeting**

Helsinki, Finland

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

#### **(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](http://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 addresses? Just send a message to: [bow@sbl-site.org](mailto:bow@sbl-site.org)

#### **(m) 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.

With best wishes for your Bible scholarship!

Louis Jonker, SBL – International Cooperation Initiative