

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE
ICI REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

(a) THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING 2020, BOSTON

Cancelled because of the COVID-19 emergency. **Changed to virtual meeting.**

Due to the serious risks to public health posed by COVID-19, the in-person 2020 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature and the American Academy of Religion, scheduled to take place in Boston on 21–24 November, has been cancelled. The 2020 Annual Meeting will be all virtual. SBL and AAR together are committed to providing an innovative scholarly exchange so that every paper accepted has an opportunity for presentation. A virtual publishing exhibit hall, too, will provide you opportunities to explore the latest publications and resources and to schedule meetings. **Program Book available.**

[Letter from the Executive Director Regarding Cancellation of the 2020 Annual Meeting](#)

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

(b) THE SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING 2020, ADELAIDE

Cancelled because of the COVID-19 emergency

[Letter from the Executive Director Regarding Cancellation of the 2020 International Meeting](#)

Next meeting: 2021 (July 25-29): University of Kent, Canterbury, England.

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 2020, 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.

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.

Who is eligible?

- Current SBL members outside North America who have not attended an Annual or International Meeting within the last five years.
- Applicants must have completed at least a Masters degree or be enrolled in a Ph.D. program.
- Preference will be given to women, people of historically underrepresented ethnicities, and members from **ICI-qualifying countries.**
- Persons who have previously received a SBL Travel Award are not eligible.

What does a travel award include?

- Reimbursement of travel, visa application fees, meal and Annual or International Meeting expenses up to the amount of the award.
- Lodging (one room, single or shared) for four nights.
- Complimentary Annual or International Meeting registration.

What is the procedure for a grant application?

- Submit your Travel Award Application **here** and your letter of recommendation to the **travel grant administrator** no later than **15 February 2020**. The online application is also available via the link below.
- The application form must include the following information:
 - Participant’s contributions to the scholarly conversation as a result of Annual or International Meeting participation
 - Participants plans to advance quality of biblical scholarship as a result of International Travel Award
 - Financial need
 - Explanation on how grant will facilitate collaboration between scholars of different countries and areas of expertise
 - Opportunities created for scholar as a result of Travel award
- A letter of recommendation from a person who knows the applicant’s academic work and can confirm his or her interest in SBL (i.e. advisor, mentor, research supervisor). Email this letter to the **travel award administrator**.

Criteria for awards

The more criteria met, the stronger the application.

- New contribution: How will this person bring something new into the scholarly conversation at the Annual or International Meeting?
- Quality of contribution: How will this person advance the academic quality of biblical scholarship?
- Financial need: Is there sufficient need? Are there other sources of funding available?
- Partnership with other scholars: How will the grant facilitate broad collaboration between scholars of different countries and different areas of expertise?
- Opportunity to participate: Has this person participated in scholarly conferences previously?

Deadlines

1 December 2019: International Travel Award application opens.

15 February 2020: Deadline – Application form and recommendation letter.

15 April 2020: Award decisions will be announced.

Travel Award Application Form

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

(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:

HAVEA, Jione, Peter H. W. LAU (eds.). *Reading Ecclesiastes from Asia and Pasifika*. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2020. ISBN 9781628372793

An invitation to read biblical texts as responses and conversations.

This follow-up to *Reading Ruth in Asia* (2015) extends Qoheleth's question in Ecclesiastes 3:9 to the toils of biblical critics: Is there gain in reading? Contributors from Asia and Pasifika approach Ecclesiastes through oral (e.g., stories, legends, customs, ways) and written (e.g., Tamil and Chinese scriptures) texts as they ponder this question. Voices from Palestine, Pakistan, and Pasifika add to those from India, Malaysia, China, Sri Lanka, and Australia and expand the conversation in new directions through sources not usually encountered in biblical scholarship. Topics of wisdom, gender, justice, vanity, bitterness, life, death, labor, exile, pain, and philosophy invite readers to reconsider their own interpretations of this ancient text. *Reading Ecclesiastes from Asia and Pasifika* is a call for more contextual, intertextual, interscriptural, and postcolonial readings from within and beyond Asia and Pasifika.

Features:

- An introductory essay on contextual biblical interpretation.
- Readings of Ecclesiastes cross-textually with Asian scriptures and philosophies.
- A conversation around critiques of contextual biblical interpretation.

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

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

<https://internationalpedagogies.wordpress.com>

If you have not already done so, be sure to read the guest posts on the Friends of the ICI International Pedagogies blog by Dr. Hassan Musa (ECWA Theological Seminary Kagoro, Nigeria) on issues relating to teaching, access to internet, and spirituality during the era of COVID-19. You can read these and other posts at <https://internationalpedagogies.wordpress.com/blog-2/>

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. So 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) **SBL WOMEN'S ARCHIVE PROJECT**

The number of women and the types of roles they hold in the SBL have been increasing since Anna Ely Rhoads joined in 1894. Women push methodological boundaries, teach and mentor students, and support guild initiatives by serving as editors, program chairs, committee members, and officers. To honor women's accomplishments and to consider the unique challenges they continue to face, the Society is developing a digital archive to preserve the stories of women in the guild. We invite women members to share their personal stories through video, audio, pictorial, and written reflections. Submissions will become part of the official SBL archival records. It is our hope that this will become the first of many archive projects that will preserve the unique experience of members from a guild that continues to grow, change, and become more inclusive.

For more reflection guidelines and submission instructions, see the SBL Women's

Archive [page](#). Check out the [FAQ](#) for additional information about this project and the archive.

(j) 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!

(k) 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/>

(l) JSTOR

News!: JSTOR resources during COVID-19. Last updated: August 18, 2020

“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

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."

(m) Red Iberoamericana de Investigadores en Próximo Oriente Antiguo

Nuevo!: Se acaba de conformar RIIPOA, la Red Iberoamericana de Investigadores en Próximo Oriente Antiguo.

La Red se conforma en equipos interdisciplinarios integrados por especialistas en Egiptología, Asiriología, Hititología, en el Levante antiguo y en Estudios Bíblicos. Está integrada por especialistas iberoamericanos radicados en distintos países de Europa y América, coordinados a fin de potenciar contactos, generar nuevas líneas de investigación y delinear proyectos a nivel internacional.

Los Coordinadores de la Red son Roxana Flammini, Universidad Católica Argentina, y Carlos Gracia Zamacona, Universidad de Alcalá (España).

New!: RIIPOA, an Ibero-American Network of Researchers on the Ancient Near East, has just been set up.

The Network is made up of interdisciplinary teams with specialists in Egyptology, Assyriology, Hittitology, the ancient Levant and Biblical Studies. It is comprised

by Ibero-American specialists based in different European and American countries, coordinated in order to promote contacts, generate new lines of research and outline projects at an international level.

The Coordinators of the Network are Roxana Flammini, Universidad Católica Argentina, and Carlos Gracia Zamacona, Universidad de Alcalá (Spain).

<https://www.riipoa.com/>

(n) International Association for Archaeological Research in Western & Central

New association!: The International Association for Archaeological Research in Western & Central Asia is aimed to establish a worldwide link between scholars, to defend the archaeological discipline and its scientists, to propose a number of services (informing, encouraging joint projects, mentoring promising students, advising international organizations).

<https://arwa-international.org/>

(o) 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.

2020

10/21-10/22 From the Books of Enoch to Genesis Apocryphon: The Aramaic Manuscripts of 1 Enoch and Related Apocalyptic Traditions

The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. The conference offers a platform for all scholars to reflect on, and deepen the understanding of, the linguistic, philological, literary, and exegetical aspects of Enochic apocalyptic literature

whose most ancient layer of tradition is readily available in its Aramaic manuscripts from Qumran.

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

11/14 AABS 2020 Annual Meeting

The Anglican Association of Biblical Scholars 2020 Annual Meeting will meet virtually by ZOOM on Saturday, November 14, 12:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/3333232260033064/>

2021

2/1-2/3 Colloquium Biblicum Lovaniense LXIX, 2020

The Colloquium Biblicum Lovaniense is an annual international conference on Biblical Studies jointly organised by the theological faculties of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven and the Université Catholique de Louvain. The meetings take place in the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies at the KU Leuven and are alternately dedicated to a topic in Old and in New Testament Studies. The Colloquium offers a forum and meeting place for research and scholarly discussion in the field of Biblical Studies. As a rule the annual conference focuses on a biblical book or a collection of writings, but it also addresses thematic subjects.

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

7/25-7/29 SBL International Meeting

University of Kent, Canterbury, England

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

(p) 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>

(q) 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/>. The total of articles in Spanish will be 36:

Abraham (Spanish)

Christ (Spanish)

Hagar (Spanish)

Does the Bible Relate to History “as It Actually Happened”? (Spanish)

How Bible Scholars Study a Text (Spanish)

Caiaphas (Vietnamese)

The Apostle John (Vietnamese)

"Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Heaven" (Vietnamese)

Babylonian Exile (Vietnamese)

Bethlehem (Vietnamese)

Jericho (Vietnamese)

Love Passage (1Cor 13) (Vietnamese)

Love Your Neighbor (Vietnamese)

Second Creation (Vietnamese)

The First Creation, Gen 1:1–2:3 (Vietnamese)

The Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7) (Vietnamese)

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!

(r) 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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