

**SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE
ICI REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2023**

(a) THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING 2024, San Diego, CA

November 23-26, 2024. Call for papers is forthcoming. Registration is forthcoming.
<https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/AnnualMeeting.aspx>

(b) THE SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING 2024, AMSTERDAM

July 28-August 1, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands. Call for papers is now open. Registration is forthcoming.
<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 Global Virtual Meeting, April 1-4, 2024

Call for papers is now open! Registration is forthcoming.
<https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/GlobalVirtualMeeting.aspx>

Big news! The ICI Committee will be hosting a session at the Global Virtual Meeting on Getting Your Work Published! JBL General Editor Susan Hylen and Managing Editor Jonathan Potter have both agreed to take part. Don't miss it!

(d) 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 2023, each ITAP will administer two, \$1,500 awards in each region. 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.

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

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 open! Applications are due no later than 1 February, 2024.

The Award Panels

Name	Panel		Term	Years of Term
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	2	2022-2024	
Ester Petrenko	Eastern Europe	2	2021-2023	
Carmen Palmer (Chair)	All Panels	1	2021-2023	
Juan Manuel Tebes	All Panels	2	2021-2023	
Nasili Vaka'uta	Asia and Pacific	2	2021-2023	
Elaine M. Wainwright	Asia and Pacific	2	2021-2023	

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)

New! in ANEM:***Hebrew Forms of Address: A Sociolinguistic Analysis*****By Young Bok Kim ANEM 31, 2023**

Young Bok Kim investigates the patterns of nominal forms of address in Biblical and Epigraphic Hebrew, examining their role in expressing various social relationships between speakers and addressees. Drawing on modern sociolinguistic theories on address and politeness, as well as insights from Hebrew studies, Kim elucidates the underlying rules governing address usage. This essential resource, complete with data tables and illustrative figures, provides valuable insights into the social structure of ancient Israel and the exegetical significance of address variations, making it indispensable for scholars and students of Hebrew interested in its potential for biblical interpretation.

**(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 edited by 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 the general editor, [Jione Havea](#).

New! in IVBS:

Context Matters: Old Testament Essays from Africa and Beyond

Honoring Knut Holter

Edited by Madipoane Masenya (Ngwan'a Mphahlele), Marta

Høyland Lavik, Ntozakhe Simon Cezula, and Tina Dykesteen

Nilsen, 2023

Bible interpretation cannot be detached from the context(s) of contemporary Bible readers. Historically, Western biblical scholarship has placed itself atop the global interpretative hierarchy, limiting the issue of context to the ancient world of the Bible, while marginalizing the hermeneutical endeavors of the geopolitical South. In this volume, contributions from David Tuesday Adamo[†], Jostein Ådna, Hendrik L. Bosman, Ntozakhe Simon Cezula, L. Juliana Claassens, Hans de Wit, Beth E. Elness-Hanson, Louis C. Jonker, Magnar Kartveit, Marta Høyland Lavik, Grant LeMarquand, Madipoane

Masenya (Ngwan'a Mphahlele), Jesse N. K. Mugambi, Kenneth Ngwa, Tina Dykesteen Nilsen, Helen Nambalirwa Nkabala, Funlola O. Olojede, Fernando F. Segovia, Terje Stordalen, Charlene van der Walt, and Gerald O. West challenge traditional historical-critical views of contextual interpretation with readings of the Bible that enhance our understanding of the Bible in the ancient world as well as in the global South and the global North.

(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

*****The ICI Online Book Repository is now available to biblical scholars in Puerto Rico!*****

<https://www.sbl-site.org/publications/onlinebooks.aspx>

New volumes have been added this month!

Cooper, Stephen A., and Vaclav Němec, eds. *The Philosophy, Theology, and Rhetoric of Marius Victorinus. Writings from the Greco-Roman World Supplement Series 20*. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2022.

This collection of essays is devoted to the rhetoric, Neoplatonic philosophy, and Christian theology of Marius Victorinus, a mid-fourth-century professor of rhetoric and philosopher who converted to Christianity late in life. Scholars from eight different countries, some of whom have not previously published in English, reflect on debates about his writings and theological development. These topics include Victorinus's deployment of philosophical sources for trinitarian theology, possible connections in his work to Origen, Augustine, Plotinus, Porphyry, and Gnosticism, as well as his contributions to Latin rhetoric and dialectic. Contributors include Jan Dominik Bogataj, Michael Chase, Nello Cipriani, Stephen A. Cooper, Volker Henning Drecoll, Lenka Karfíková, Josef Lössl, Václav Nemeč, Thomas Riesenweber, Guadalupe Lopetegui Semperena, Miran Špelic, Chiara O. Tommasi, John D. Turner, and Florian Zacher. The chapters in this volume are of great interest to students of late antique philosophy, Christian theology, and Latin rhetoric.

Sandoval, Timothy J., and Bernd U. Schipper, eds. *Gerhard von Rad and the Study of Wisdom Literature. Ancient Israel and Its Literature 46. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2022.*

Gerhard von Rad's study of biblical wisdom literature in *Weisheit in Israel* (1970) is widely regarded as one of the most important studies in the field of ancient Israelite wisdom literature. More than fifty years later, contributors to *Gerhard von Rad and the Study of Wisdom Literature* reevaluate the significance and shortcomings of the late scholar's work and engage new methods and directions for wisdom studies today. Contributors include George J. Brooke, Ariel Feldman, Edward L. Greenstein, Arthur Jan Keefer, Jennifer L. Koosed, Will Kynes, Christl M. Maier, Timothy J. Sandoval, Bernd U. Schipper, Mark Sneed, Hermann Spieckermann, Anne W. Stewart, Raymond C. Van Leeuwen, Stuart Weeks, and Benjamin G. Wright III. This collection of essays is essential reading not only for specialists in wisdom studies but also for scholars and advanced students of the Hebrew Bible in general.

Liew, Tat-siong Benny, and Shelly Matthews, eds. *Race and Biblical Studies: Antiracism Pedagogy for the Classroom. Resources for Biblical Studies 101. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2022.*

Classrooms as communities are temporary, but the racial effects can be long term. The biblical studies classroom can be a site of personal and social transformation. To make it a space for positive change, the contributors to this volume question and reevaluate traditional teaching practices and assessment tools that foreground white, Western scholarship in order to offer practical guidance for an antiracist pedagogy. The introduction and fifteen essays provide tools for engaging issues of social context and scriptural authority, nationalism and religious identities, critical race theory, and how race, gender, and class can be addressed empathetically. Contributors Sonja Anderson, Randall C. Bailey, Eric D. Barreto, Denise Kimber Buell, Greg Carey, Haley Gabrielle, Wilda C. Gafney, Julián Andrés González Holguín, Sharon Jacob, Tat-siong Benny Liew, Francisco Lozada Jr., Shelly Matthews, Roger S. Nam, Wongi Park, Jean-Pierre Ruiz, Abraham Smith, and Kay Higuera Smith share their experience creating classrooms that are spaces that enable the production of new knowledge without reproducing a white subject of the geopolitical West.

Hartenstein, Friedhelm, and Konrad Schmid, eds. *Farewell to the Priestly Writing? The Current State of the Debate. Ancient Israel and Its Literature 38. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2022.*

In discussions of the origin of the Pentateuch, the Priestly source traditionally constitutes an undisputed reference point for different source-critical models, and it is the only literary layer with concise terminology and a theological conception that

can be extracted from a non-Priestly context. This English translation of *Abschied von der Priesterschrift? Zum Stand der Pentateuchdebatte* revisits the scholarly debate surrounding the Documentary Hypothesis and the so-called Priestly material's position either as an independent written source or as a redaction within the books of Genesis through Deuteronomy.

Screnock, John, with Vladimir Olivero. *A Grammar of Ugaritic*. RBS 102. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2022.

A Grammar of Ugaritic is an accessible yet academically rigorous textbook for first-year students of Ugaritic. Eight digestible lessons include more than 150 exercises to strengthen readers' understanding through translation and composition of not only vocalized Ugaritic but also transcribed texts and cuneiform script—strategies that develop language skills and provide a sound basis for classroom teaching. Short stories interspersed among the lessons help students consolidate their knowledge and bolster recognition of forms. An introduction to the language and its historical context, glossaries, paradigms, and a bibliography and guide for further learning supplement the lessons. Students who work through the grammar in the classroom or individually will be rewarded with the ability to read real Ugaritic texts in cuneiform.

Zeichmann, Christopher B. *Queer Readings of the Centurion at Capernaum: Their History and Politics*. Bible and Its Reception 5. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2022.

Since the 1950s, homoerotic readings of the pericope in which Jesus heals a Roman centurion's slave have been built upon three of the account's features: the specific Greek word *pais*, which can refer to youth, slave, or the junior partner in a sexual relationship between two men; Luke's characterization of the young man as "dear" (*entimos*) to the centurion; and commonplace homoeroticism in the Roman army. Rather than affirming or denying the historical reality of a sexual relationship between the centurion and the young man, Christopher B. Zeichmann instead traces the shifting patterns of queer readings of the text and the influences of the sexual, political, and theological discourses of late twentieth- and early twenty-first-century Europe, the United States, and Australia. Readers will see how distinct political contexts have led interpreters to find very different meanings about the sexual subtexts of this story.

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

<https://internationalpedagogies.wordpress.com>

During the pandemic the ICI began the Friends of the ICI International Pedagogies blog. You can still find reflections on online teaching and learning, here!

(h) ICI TEACHING COLLABORATION PROGRAM

The Teaching Collaboration Program of SBL's International Cooperation Initiative was established a number of 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.

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>

(k) JSTOR

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.

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

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 Eric McDonnell at eric.mcdonnell@sbl-site.org.

Check out these monthly webinars in the Sage “How to Get Published” webinar series!

<https://uk.sagepub.com/en-gb/eur/how-to-get-published-webinar>

12/7–12/8 2023

Perceptions of Writing in Papyri: Crossing Close and Distant Readings Online Conference

This online conference will analyze how digital culture has changed the perceptions of writing styles in papyri. Studies conducted by modern scholars have always been the main way of evaluating papyri, determining their dates and content. We will evaluate the current ways scholars view the aesthetics of papyri in a world where close and distant readings are intersecting more every day.

(n) 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>

(o) BIBLE ODYSSEY

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

[Sign up for the Bible Odyssey Newsletter](#)

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.

There 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!

(p) PLEASE PASS ON THE INFORMATION

If someone you know anyone has been asking for a quick introduction to the work of the ICI Committee, feel free to direct them to this brief SBL Member Spotlight interview: <https://www.sbl-site.org/membership/MemberSpotlight.aspx>

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.

It has been a great pleasure to serve you as Chair over the last three years. Please welcome the new ICI Chair in 2024, Dr. Nasili Vaka'uta, Principal and Ranston Lecturer in Biblical Studies of Trinity Methodist Theological College, Auckland, New Zealand.

Thank you for your ongoing interest and support!

Carmen Palmer
Stetson University, DeLand, FL
Outgoing Chair, International Cooperation Initiative Committee of the
Society of Biblical Literature