

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE
ICI REPORT FOR MARCH 2023

(a) THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING 2023, San Antonio, Texas

November 18-21, 2023 Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio, Texas, USA. **Call for Papers is open!**

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

THE SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING 2023, PRETORIA

July 3-7, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa. **Call for papers is now closed.**

<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.

(b) BIG NEWS! SBL launches a global, virtual meeting, March 27-31, 2023!

The call for papers for individual presentations and pre-planned sessions is now closed. Registration for the virtual meeting is now open!

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

The ICI held a session titled “ICI Post-COVID: Reflections on the Past and Future” at the Salzburg International SBL meeting. Please see the link for a blog summary

of this invigorating session! Topics included on-the-ground effects of COVID on teaching, the future of the virtual meeting, ICI's activities, and regional activities: <https://internationalpedagogies.wordpress.com/blog-2/>

(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 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 closed.

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	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

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

[http://www.uca.edu.ar/index.php/site/index/es/uca/departamento-de-historia/publicaciones/monografias-sobre-el-antiguo-cercano-oriente/](http://www.uca.edu.ar/index.php/site/index/es/uca/departamento-de-historia/publicaciones/monografias-sobre-el-antiguo-cercano-orient/)

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 (print versions forthcoming):

McClellan, Daniel O. *YHWH's Divine Images: A Cognitive Approach.*

Ancient Near East Monographs – Monografías sobre el Antiguo Oriente, Volume 29. Atlanta: SBL Press – Centro de Estudios del Antiguo Oriente, 2022.

(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](#).

Here is the latest volume of IVBS:

Terror in the Bible: Rhetoric, Gender, and Violence

Edited by Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon and Robyn J. Whitaker.

IVBS 14. Atlanta: SBL, 2021.

This volume of essays, inspired by Phyllis Trible's *Texts of Terror*, examines the terrorizing potential of biblical texts as they intersect with issues of context, gender, caste, violence, and colonization/imperialism. Contributors writing from Australia, India, New Zealand, Tonga, South Africa, and the US interrogate biblical texts from the Hebrew Bible and New Testament to bring to the fore their terrorizing and terrifying potential and their violent and violating impact particularly on women and minoritized men as they intersect with cultures in their home contexts. Essays engage Trible by paying attention to some of the same biblical texts through new questions, extending the repertoire of Trible's terrorizing texts to include those not always seen as texts of terror and stretching and extending her interpretations into new contexts. Contributors include Karen Eller, Rachelle Gilmour, Laura Griffin, Jione Havea, Dorothy A. Lee, Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon, Brent Pelton, Angela Sawyer, David Tombs, Gerald O. West, Robyn J. Whitaker, and Adela Yarbro Collins. A foreword by Phyllis Trible reflects on what motivated her work and how this volume pushes the academy and the church to deal with the violence inherent in some biblical texts.

(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>

Check out these newly added volumes!

Dillon, Amanda. *Drawn to the Word: The Bible and Graphic Design. The Bible and Its Reception 4*. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2021.

How artists portrayed the Bible in large canvas paintings is frequently the subject of scholarly exploration, yet the presentation of biblical texts in contemporary graphic designs has been largely ignored. In this book Amanda Dillon engages multimodal analysis, a method of semiotic discourse, to explore how visual composition, texture, color, directionality, framing, angle, representations, and interactions produce potential meanings for biblical graphic designs. Dillon focuses on the artworks of two American graphic designers—the woodcuts designed by Meinrad Craighead for the Roman Catholic Sunday Missal and Nicholas Markell’s illustrations for the worship books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—to present the merits of multimodal analysis for biblical reception history.

Jeon, Jaeyoung, ed. *The Social Groups Behind the Pentateuch. Ancient Israel and Its Literature 44*. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2021.

During the last several decades, scholars in pentateuchal studies have suggested new compositional models to replace the Documentary Hypothesis, yet no consensus has emerged. The ten essays in this collection advance the discussion by shifting the focus of pentateuchal studies from the literary stratification of different layers of the texts to the social, economic, religious, and political agendas behind them. Rather than limiting the focus of their studies to scribal and community groups within Persian Yehud, contributors look beyond Yehud to other Judahite communities in the diaspora, including Elephantine and the Samaritan community, establishing a proper academic context for setting the diverse voices of the Pentateuch as we now understand them. Contributors include Olivier Artus, Thomas B. Dozeman, Innocent Himbaza, Jürg Hutzli, Jaeyoung Jeon, Itamar Kislev, Ndikho Mtshiselwa, Dany Noquet, Katharina Pyschny, Thomas Römer, and Konrad Schmid.

Runia, David T., and Gregory E. Sterling. eds. *Studia Philonica Annual 33* (2021).

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 (circa 15 BCE to circa 50 CE). Volume 33 includes a special section on the history of editions of Philo, five general articles on Philo's work, an annotated bibliography, and thirteen book reviews.

Stone, Michael E. *Armenian Apocrypha from Adam to Daniel. Early Judaism and Its Literature 55*. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2021.

This latest book by Michael E. Stone is the sixth volume in a series of translations from Armenian to English, which he began with the publication of *Armenian Apocrypha Relating to Patriarchs and Prophets* in 1982. His initial aim, to search unstudied Armenian manuscripts for works dating back to the Second Temple period, developed into a career-long search for reworkings of biblical traditions, stories, and persons in the Armenian tradition. In this collection Stone focuses on texts related to heaven and hell, angels and demons, and biblical figures from the Hebrew Bible and apocrypha. Texts, introductions, translations, annotations, and a critical apparatus make this collection a key resource for students and scholars of apocryphal and pseudepigraphical literature.

Kazen, Thomas. *Impurity and Purification in Early Judaism and the Jesus Tradition. Resources for Biblical Study 98*. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2021.

This collection of essays by Thomas Kazen focuses on issues of purity and purification in early Judaism and the Jesus tradition. During the late Second Temple period, Jewish purity practices became more prominent than before and underwent substantial developments. These essays advance the ongoing conversation and debate about a number of key issues in the field, such as the relationship between ritual and morality, the role and function of metaphor, and the use of evolutionary and embodied perspectives. Kazen's research stands in constant dialogue with the major currents and main figures in purity research, including both historical (origin, development, practice) and cognitive (evolutionary, emotional, conceptual) approaches.

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

<https://internationalpedagogies.wordpress.com>

POST SUMAMRIZING THE Salzburg SBL ICI Post-COVID SESSION! Other entries are welcome on the topic of pedagogical learnings / teaching adaptations made during the ongoing pandemic. If you would also like to contribute to the Friends of the ICI International Pedagogies blog, please be in touch with [Carmen Palmer](#).

(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 [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>

(k) JSTOR

News!: “JSTOR and participating publishers are making an expanded set of content freely available to help during the ongoing crisis.

Support for participating institutions

Access to unlicensed collections for participating academic institutions that currently license some, but not all, JSTOR Archive and Primary Source collections through June 30, 2023.” **(Extended by a year!)**

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."

① 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.

(Welcome Eric to the ICI collaboration!)

3/9-3/10 2023: Humanimal Virtual Conference: The Bible & "Animal" Others

Nonhuman animals pervade the Bible. Despite this, they have often been overlooked in biblical scholarship, written off as background or as symbols for human concerns. This conference offers a corrective to this oversight by hosting a conversation about "animal" others in biblical texts, Second Temple literature, and the Bible's reception. The conference is free, but registration is required.

[More information](#)

3/24 Call for Papers: CTCL-Symposium 2023 (online)

Pope Francis speaks in *Evangelii Gaudium* “of the need to promote a sound ‘decentralization’” (16) mirrored in the newly promulgated Constitution for the Roman Curia and the importance of the Dicastery for Evangelisation for the life of the Church (*Praedicate Evangelium*, Art. 53-58). At the same time, the church in our times is characterised by an abuse of power ultimately leading to a Synodal Pathway that will culminate in a Synod of Bishops on “Communion, Participation, and Mission” in autumn 2023. An important question surrounding these events that this symposium takes as a hypothesis lies in the right understanding of power in the Church. [More information](#)

4/05-4/07 2023: Oceania Biblical Studies Association (OBSA) Conference

Theme: Bible, Crises, Healing

Host: Kanana Fou Theological Seminary (American Samoa)

[More information](#)

4/13-4/15 2023: Religion in Modern Education: Conflict, Policy, and Practice

This conference, hosted at the Australian National University in Canberra, Australia, invites scholars to consider the immediate and enduring impacts that the value, consideration, accessibility, and format of religious education may have on religious practices, on public spheres of activity, and on the relationship between religion and society.

[More information](#)

6/21-6/23 2023: Interpreting Sacred Texts in Contemporary Africa: Concepts, Methods and Approaches

This international conference, to be held from June 29 to July 1, 2022 is being organised by the Department for the Study of Religions, University of Ghana, Legon and the Département d'écriture sainte of the Institut de Théologie de la Compagnie de Jésus, (ITCJ), Abidjan. Papers will interpret sacred texts within changing contexts in Africa. **The deadline for abstract submissions is March 31, 2023.** Abstracts may be submitted to sacredtexts@ug.edu.gh.

7/16-7/19 2023 Call for Papers: "(Anti)-Apocalypticism throughout Antiquity"

The University of Zurich is organising a conference on the subject of "(Anti) Apocalypticism in Antiquity," which is going to take place at the Monte Verità Conference Centre in Ascona, Switzerland, from July 16th to 19th 2023. The event is part of the "Congressi Stefano Franscini" events series. This international congress will serve as a platform for interdisciplinary exchange on the subject of apocalyptic thinking, its critiques, and the cultural and intellectual history surrounding apocalyptic traditions in ancient cultures. Besides a number of invited sessions with participants from the disciplines of theology, history, classics, philology, and other areas of research interested in various ancient cultures, the organisers invite offered papers for contributions of a maximum of 15 to 20 minutes. This call for papers is open to both junior and senior scholars from all

disciplines within the study of ancient texts, languages, cultures and thought, while there is some focus on Ancient Near Eastern, Mediterranean, Levantine, Egyptian, and Persian contexts. Scholars researching questions in relation to (anti-) apocalypticism are invited to send abstracts for proposed papers to the organisers by email to the following address: apocalypticism@theol.uzh.ch. Abstracts should be of an approximate length of 300-400 words and be supplemented by a small paragraph describing the scholar's academic background.

**8/30-9/01 (2023) Oceania Biblical Studies Association (OBSA) Conference
Theme: Bible, Climate, and Health**

Host: Malua Theological Seminary (Samoa)

[More information](#)

(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

Great online source in times of the COVID-19 ongoing pandemic

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

Check out these recent entries from Bible Odyssey:

[Israel as a Person, People, and Place](#)

[Milk and Honey \(Exodus 3:8\)](#)

[Sacrifice in the Ancient Mediterranean World](#)

[The Legacy of the Bible in Justifying Slavery](#)

[Zipporah](#)

[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.

Thank you for your ongoing interest and support!

Carmen Palmer
Chair, International Cooperation Initiative Committee of the Society of
Biblical Literature