

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE ICI REPORT FOR MARCH 2018

(a) THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING 2018, DENVER

The next SBL Annual Meeting will take place in Denver, Colorado, from 17 to 20 November 2018. The Call for Papers is **closed**, Registering is **open**. See this link:

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

SOME ADDITIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN DENVER!:

Hotel	Website	Address	Phone	Fees*	Distance to Colorado Convention Center
Hostel Fish*	www.hostelfish.com	1217 20th St., Denver, CO 80202	(303) 954-0962	\$43/night (dorms) to \$120/night (private)	1 mile
11th Avenue Hotel and Hostel*	www.11thavenuehotelandhostel.com	1112 Broadway, Denver, CO 80204	(303) 894-0529	\$30/night (dorms) to \$55/night (single)	1 mile
Ember Hostel*	www.emberhostels.com	857 Grant St., Denver, CO 80203	(303) 942-1633	\$50/night (dorms) to \$120/night (private)	1.5 miles
La Quinta Inn Denver Central	www.laquintadenvercentral.com	3500 Park Ave. West, Denver, CO 80216	(303) 458-1222	\$64/night	2 miles
Motel 6 Denver Central	www.motel6.com	3050 W 49th Ave., Denver CO 80221	(303) 455-888	\$77/night	5 miles
Extended Stay American Denver-Cherry Creek	www.extendedstayamerica.com	4444 Leetsdale Dr., Glendale, CO 80246	(303) 388-3880	\$80/night	5 miles

Fees are subject to change

*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 **closed**, Program Book is **available**.

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.

Visa letters for travel to the Annual or International Meetings

In order to facilitate attendance by those in ICI countries at SBL Congresses, [Samantha Spitzner](#) has been appointed as the SBL visa coordinator. Samantha will advise members who need visas in order to travel to and participate in the Annual or International Meetings. She will not prepare applications, but will be a source of information to aid members in submitting applications and will provide letters of intent if needed by those participating in the meeting as presenters or committee members. For more information, please contact Samantha directly.

SBL INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AWARDS

Congratulations to the 2018 International Travel Award Recipients!

Vuyani Stanley Sindo

Dogara Ishaya Manomi

Rachel Borovsky

Alexander Panayotov

Isabel Aparecida Felix

Lallawmzuala Khiangte

Annelle Sabanal

Richard Roy Beckford

The SBL International Travel Awards offer opportunities to current SBL members outside North America to attend the Annual or International Meeting, to participate in the program, to enhance their professional development, and to build their network with fellow scholars. These grants help facilitate the work of Program Units and the International Cooperation Initiative (“ICI”). These grants are intended to support underrepresented and underresourced scholars. As such, preference will be given to women, people of historically underrepresented

ethnicities, and members from **ICI-qualifying countries**. A key criterion is an applicant's demonstrable financial need.

Four International Travel Award Panels (ITAP) will administer the awards each year, serving four geographic regions:

- Africa and Middle East
- Asia and Pacific
- Eastern Europe
- Latin America and Caribbean

For awards offered in 2018, each ITAP will administer \$3,000 in awards in each region. The panels may determine the best distribution of funds (e.g., as one \$1000 and one \$2000 award, or as three awards of \$1000 each). The applicants must attend the Annual or International Meetings, but may or may not participate in the program, depending upon their needs expressed in the application. All grants include lodging (one room, single or shared) for four nights and complimentary meeting registration. Recipients may not have attended an Annual or International Meeting within the last five (5) years.

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

(c) **PUBLICATION IN ANCIENT NEAR EAST MONOGRAPHS (ANEM)**

ANEM is a series that was established by the SBL at the request of the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI), jointly published with the Universidad Católica Argentina's Centro de Estudios de Historia del Antiguo Oriente (CEHAO) and co-edited by Alan Lenzi 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:

HAMORI, Ester J. & STOKL, Jonathan. Perchance to Dream: Dream Divination in the Bible and the Ancient Near East. Ancient Near East Monographs – Monografías sobre el Antiguo Oriente, Volume 21. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature – Centro de Estudios del Antiguo Oriente, 2018. 220 pp. ISBN 9781628372076

Essays from an international group of experts.

This book examines the interpretation of dreams, which were thought to contain divine messages in the ancient Near East. For the first time in a single collection, scholars examine how dream divination was used in different ancient cultures. The essays, written by scholars specializing in different regions and bodies of literature, shed light on dream divination in the Bible, the Talmud, and in writings from Canaan, Mesopotamia, and Hittite Anatolia. Contributors include Franziska Ede, Esther J. Hamori, Koowon Kim, Christopher Metcalf, Alice Mouton, Scott B. Noegel, Andrew B. Perrin, Stephen C. Russell, Jonathan Stökl, and Haim Weiss.

Features:

- Perspectives from a variety of texts spanning the ancient eastern Mediterranean world.
- Essays that serve as an entry point for interested scholars and graduate students.
- A thorough study of dream divination understood as a discipline within ancient texts.

(d) PUBLICATION IN INTERNATIONAL VOICES IN BIBLICAL STUDIES (IVBS)

IVBS is a series that was established by the SBL at the request of the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI), and which is co-edited by Monica Melanchthon and Jione Havea. IVBS encourages in particular submissions from scholars in the present seven international regions for which it has editorial boards: Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, Middle East-South Asia, Northeast Asia, Pacific, and Southeast Asia. Interregional collaborations are also welcome. IVBS publishes works in English and in any other language for which its editors

can find qualified peer reviewers. Any work published in IVBS is freely available to anyone in perpetuity. The series publishes work generally in the area of reception history and criticism. The scope is not limited to any particular biblical text or historical timeframe. The works will mainly be published in English and, wherever possible, also in primary languages of authors. For more information please go to <http://ivbs.sbl-site.org/home.aspx>. If you would consider publishing your work in this series, feel free to contact one of the two general editors, [Monica Melanchthon](#) or [Jione Havea](#).

The latest volume in IVBS is:

Nofoaiga, V. A Samoan Reading of Discipleship in Matthew. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2017.

A reading of discipleship as service from the ancient Galilee to contemporary Samoa

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.

(e) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS

For a full alphabetic list of all publications available for free in the ICI book repository program, please go to:

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

New books added to the ICI repository!:

Sutskover, Talia. *Sight and Insight In Genesis: A Semantic Study*. Hebrew Bible Monographs 56. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2013.

Sight and Insight shows how prominent are terms from the semantic field of sight in the book of Genesis. They are constantly found in openings, at turning points, and as constituents in place-names and personal names. Because of their presence at strategic points in the plot of Genesis, words of sight enhance cohesion among the narratives of the book. From the beginning of time, according to Genesis, there have been numerous instances of seeing on the part of both God and humans. But as Genesis progresses, God gradually becomes more hidden and his seeing gives place to human perception. These observations are built upon a sound theoretical foundation, outlined in the opening chapter, which provides a clear definition of the concept of 'semantic field' and an explanation of related semantic terms such as 'frames' and 'prototypes'. Subsequent chapters identify the words that can be assigned to the 'sight' field, examine the deployment of the sight field in individual narratives in Genesis, and study the sight field over larger sections of the book.

Zehnder, Markus, and Hallvard Hagelia, eds. *Encountering Violence in the Bible*. The Bible in the Modern World 55. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2013.

Our world is full of violence, with repeated acts of terrorism and generally rising rates of violent criminal acts as the most obvious forms of the phenomenon in the Western world. It even reached the peaceful shores of Norway in the summer of 2011. This was one of the reasons why the first international meeting of the Norwegian Summer Academy for Biblical Studies was devoted to the topic "Violence as an Ethical Challenge in the Bible." Eighteen biblical scholars from nine different countries met on the beautiful premises of Ansgar Theological

Seminary to discuss some of the most fundamental aspects of the topic. The papers presented at the conference are collected in the present volume, dealing mostly with the Hebrew Bible, but covering also the New Testament, Jewish literature from the Second Temple period and the Qur'an. The contributions reflect a refreshing variety of scholarly and theological approaches. One of the fundamental questions addressed in several studies is how biblical texts justifying violence can be properly understood and used today. Other questions raised are how violent some of the often-criticized biblical passages really are and how violence can be overcome.

Janzen, David. *The Necessary King: A Postcolonial Reading of the Deuteronomistic Portrait of the Monarchy*. Hebrew Bible Monographs 57. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2013.

The Necessary King explains why Israel needed a king according to the Deuteronomistic History, and why its exilic readers can expect no future except under Davidic rule. Given Israel's tendency to rebellion against its divine suzerain, the king is the necessary agent of God's colonization of Israel, making and keeping it a loyal subject.. The Deuteronomistic History with its pro-Davidic narrative has three prongs, each of which relies on an imitation of the imperial ideology of Judah's colonial masters. First, Dtr imitates the discourse of Neo-Assyrian treaties and Mesopotamian royal inscriptions, replacing the imperial suzerain with God. Second, having established this client-suzerain relationship in Deuteronomy, Dtr then goes on to imitate imperial portrayals of the disloyal and wicked foreign enemies whom the Mesopotamian king colonizes. Israel is a foreign enemy in God's eyes, repetitively proving their disloyalty to their divine suzerain and so demonstrating the need for an Israelite king who will colonize them-for their own good. Third, Dtr imitates the ideology of the Mesopotamian powers in its portrayal of the monarchy. Dtr presents the Davidides' relation to Judah/Israel just as the Mesopotamian colonial powers present their kings' relation to the foreign peoples they have conquered: their colonial rule is necessary, and actually benefits the peoples whom they colonize. Disqualifying prophets, priests, and judges as potential leaders of Israel, and presenting the people as far too sinful to

live without leadership, the Deuteronomistic History portrays the Davidic monarchy as a necessity.

Phenix Jr., Robert R. and Cornelia B. Horn. *The Rabbula Corpus: Comprising the Life of Rabbula, His Correspondence, a Homily Delivered in Constantinople, Canons, and Hymns. Writings from the Greco-Roman World* 17. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2017.

This volume makes available for the first time both the Syriac text and an English translation of every available original composition by Rabbula, the controversial bishop of Edessa (ca. 411-435 CE). It includes a new edition of the Life of Rabbula and other biographical traditions about him, including his conversion from paganism to Christianity. The texts collected in the volume are a valuable source for studying the reception history of biblical themes. In addition, the corpus offers insights into the beginnings of ecclesiastical legislation in the East, charitable work, pilgrimage, ascetic ideals, and church administration. Horn and Phenix examine Rabbula's contribution to the Christological controversies of the fifth and sixth centuries, including his influence on Cyril of Alexandria in his debate with Theodoret of Cyrrhus and Theodore of Mopsuestia.

Francisco, Héctor R. *Historia, religión y política en la Antigüedad Tardía: La historiografía monofisita de los siglos V y VI*. Byzantina & Orientalia Studia 2. Buenos Aires, Bergerac, 2011.

Francisco, Héctor R., ed. *La Historia de Karkhā de Bēth Selōkh y otros textos relativos a los mártires persas*. Byzantina & Orientalia Studia 3. Buenos Aires, Instituto Multidisciplinario de Historia y Ciencias Humanas, 2016.

Markl, Dominik, ed. *The Decalogue and Its Cultural Influence*. Bible Monographs 58. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2013.

Reception history is one of the most inviting, yet also one of the most difficult,

fields in the study of the Bible today. It is difficult because it involves so many layers of expertise. The reception-historian does not only need a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the biblical text itself, but also familiarity with the cultures and intellectual background of the many diverse ages in which it has been read and appropriated; and in addition needs to be versed in media other than writing, including the visual and performing arts. But it is inviting because it carries its practitioners so far beyond the confines of ordinary textual study, with its concern for language and text, and out into an ocean of interdisciplinary engagement with writings that have, after all, stimulated the imaginations as well as the intellects of generations of religious (and non-religious) readers.

Scholz, Susanne, ed. *Feminist Interpretation of the Hebrew Bible in Retrospect: I. Biblical Books. Recent Research in Biblical Studies 5*. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2013.

This is the first of a set of three volumes reviewing the progress of feminist Hebrew Bible scholarship over the last 40 years. In it, fourteen essayists focus on the feminist work on each of the biblical books. Each essay explores the range and depth of feminist exegesis, presents substantial yet easily digestible trends, preferences and perspectives in feminist scholarship, and demonstrates that feminist biblical approaches are not monolithic but diverse in feminist conviction, hermeneutics and method.

Robbins, Vernon K., Walter S. Melion, and Roy R. Jeal, eds. *The Art of Visual Exegesis: Rhetoric, Texts, Images*. Emory Studies in Early Christianity 19. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2017.

With a special focus on biblical texts and images, this book nurtures new developments in biblical studies and art history during the last two or three decades. Analysis and interpretation of specific works of art introduce guidelines for students and teachers who are interested in the relation of verbal presentation to visual production. The essays provide models for research in the humanities that move beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries erected in previous centuries. In particular, the volume merges recent developments in rhetorical interpretation and

cognitive studies with art historical visual exegesis. Readers will master the tools necessary for integrating multiple approaches both to biblical and artistic interpretation.

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

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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."

(f) ICI TEACHING COLLABORATION PROGRAM

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

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

(g) 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!

(h) 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/>

(i) 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.

6/12-6/15 The Future of Syriac Studies and the Legacy of Sebastian P. Brock

On the occasion of the 80th birthday of Sebastian P. Brock, Sankt Ignatios Theological Academy & Stockholm School of Theology, Sweden, is hosting a major conference on “The Future of Syriac Studies.” Sebastian Brock has agreed to be present and participate and it is expected that this will be a significant and

memorable event for Syriac studies. Several senior scholars have agreed to present plenary papers. Papers are now being invited and solicited for a limited number of spaces in general sessions. Papers should be 20–25 minutes in order to give time for discussion, and may concern any topic in the broad range of Syriac studies.

Please keep in mind that the theme of this conference aims to focus upon new directions and methodologies, as well as to forge new resolutions to traditional issues. The deadline for submittal of a title and abstract (ca. 200 words) is 1 February 2018. The conference committee will notify those whose papers have been accepted by 1 March 2018. During the concluding session, Sebastian Brock will be awarded the Order of Sankt Ignatios for his long and valued contribution to all matters Syriac, along with his mentorship to so many scholars. In addition to the plenary and general sessions, events of Syriac song and poetry are being planned, as well as a round-table discussion of the future of Syriac studies.

Housing and meals will be available for all participants at the Sigtuna Conference Centre or in the close vicinity. Sigtuna is one of the oldest settlements in Sweden and is located only 20 minutes from the Stockholm Arlanda Airport.

A registration form will be available shortly at www.sanktignatios.com

7/25-7/27 Colloquium Biblicum Lovaniense LXVII, 2018 (President: Pierre Van Hecke, Leuven)

For many centuries, the Song of Songs was by far one of the most commented biblical books, especially taking into consideration its limited length. After a period of diminished interest, recent scholarship is rediscovering the book. The present colloquium aims at bringing together the leading voices in contemporary Songs scholarship and by fostering the dialogue between them, at inaugurating a new phase in the research. Firstly, the colloquium will deal with the redaction history and the dating of the book. A second important discussion concerns the structure or unity of the book: is the scroll a collection of thematically loosely connected poems, or does it display in its final redactional form a unity? Given their uniqueness in the biblical corpus, scholarship has paid quite some attention to possible parallels of the Songs in the surrounding cultures as well as to the early Christian reception of Song of Songs. The latter developments are not unrelated

with the reopening of the hermeneutically important question whether the book was composed with an allegorical reading in mind or not. Finally, the Song of Songs continues to fascinate the readers by its highly poetic and at times difficult language. A renewed attention for the book's metaphorical richness will therefore be an important aspect of this colloquium.

CALL FOR SHORT PAPERS: Short paper proposals (including name, institutional affiliation, title and abstract of 200-300 words) should be sent to: Pierre Van Hecke, President CBL 2018, pierre.vanhecke@kuleuven.be no later than March 1, 2018.

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

7/30-8/3 SBL International Meeting

Will be held in Helsinki, Finland in conjunction with EABS.

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

7/30-8/3 European Association of Biblical Studies

Helsinki, 30 July-3 August: joint conference with ISBL

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

9/25-9/27 CFP: Religious and Philosophical Conversion in the Ancient Mediterranean Traditions

The Conference on Religious and Philosophical Conversion explore will explore conversion or converting experience in the environment of the ancient Hellenistic world(s) with attention to early Judaism and early Christianity/the New Testament. Presentations will undertake both historical and philological reconstructions relying on source material and utilizing interdisciplinary approaches.

<https://www.etf.uni-bonn.de/de/ev-theol/institute/corpc/>

10/23-10/24 Resurrection in the Bible and Ancient Mediterranean World

A Conference of the Institute of Biblical Studies, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland. The main theme of the symposium will be resurrection in the

Bible and extra-biblical traditions of the ancient Mediterranean World. The topics covered by conference papers can include: the shape and character of the idea of resurrection in the Bible and extra-biblical literature; the historical, anthropologico-cultural and theological analysis of the ancient texts and traditions on resurrection; the genesis and development of the idea of resurrection in the Hebrew Bible; the historical, socio-cultural and theological analysis of the idea of resurrection in New Testament texts together with their moral and ecclesiological implications; resurrection in Early Christian writings and traditions.

<http://ocs.academicon.pl/index.php/test/Resurrection2018>

11/17-11/20 SBL Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado.

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

(j) SBL EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FREELY AVAILABLE

There are links to numerous educational resources on the SBL website. The following are freely available: (i) Resources on Teaching the Bible; (ii) Freely downloadable Hebrew, Greek and Transliteration fonts (amongst others); (iii) Resources on Bible translations and commentaries; and (iv) Research tool resources.

See <http://sbl-site.org/educational/default.aspx>

Also remember to check the newly-developed **Bible Odyssey** online portal. See www.bibleodyssey.org. This portal offers wonderful educational resources, but also resources for broader popular audiences. Use this site to popularize our academic studies in faith communities!

Any topics you would like to see Bible Odyssey address? Just send a message to: bow@sbl-site.org

(k) 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](mailto:Jackie.duToit@sbl-site.org), 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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Juan Manuel Tebes

Chair, International Cooperation Initiative, Society of Biblical Literature

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