

## SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE ICI REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2017

### (a) THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING 2017, BOSTON, HAS COME .... AND GONE!

The SBL Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, has come and gone. Please take note of the following aspects that were discussed at the ICI executive committee meeting:

- The new executive committee: Some members are rotating off the committee and some new members have been included. The committee members from 1 January 2018 are the following:
  - Juan Tebes (chairperson);
  - Alan Lenzi (representative of ANEM/MACO);
  - Jione Havea (representative of IVBS);
  - David Hamidovic (portfolio: francophone scholarship);
  - Jackie du Toit (portfolio: teaching and mentorship volunteer programme);
  - Carmen Palmer (portfolio: needs of non-ICI countries in global south);
  - Teofilo Correa (portfolio: spanish scholarship);
  - Christopher Hooker (ex officio on behalf of SBL);
  - Louis Jonker (ad hoc member for one year, with responsibility of setting up new travel award programme).
- Both IVBS and ANEM/MACO are processing a good number of manuscript submissions at the moment through their respective peer-review processes, which will hopefully result in some good publications appearing soon in these series.
- Although fewer publishers are now participating in the free online book repository programme, a significant number of publications (45) were added in the past year. The full repository now contains several hundreds of books that are available for free downloading! The statistics for 2017 are as follows:

SBL Press	33
Sheffield Phoenix	10
Brown Judaic Studies	2
Other Partners	0
Total	45

- Jackie du Toit has made some very exciting suggestions of how the teaching and mentorship volunteer programme can be given new life. See the Appendix to this newsletter for more information. (Please contact her if you would like to assist with any aspect of this programme.)
- It was decided that recordings of some sessions of both the annual and international meetings will be made available through the SBL website for the benefit of scholars who cannot attend the meetings. The first occasion where this will be done, will be

at the SBL International Meeting in Helsinki, Finland. If you have any requests of specific sessions to be recorded, please contact Christopher Hooker of the SBL ([christopher.hooker@sbl-site.org](mailto:christopher.hooker@sbl-site.org)).

- The travel grants programme will be started soon. See more information below.
- A new portfolio has been included in the committee to attend to the special needs of non-ICI countries in the global south. This issue came up at the forum meeting in Seoul during 2016, and the person responsible for this portfolio will start developing initiatives in this regard.
- Another new portfolio has been included to attend to the special needs of scholarship in the spanish-speaking world. This is a follow-up of the forum meeting in Buenos Aires in 2015.
- Book reviews of publications in other languages than English and German are now starting to enter RBL. This gives better exposure to scholarship in other languages. If you know of publications in other languages (particularly in French, Spanish, Hebrew, or Asian languages) that are worthwhile to be reviewed, and if you know suitable reviewers in those languages, please feel free to contact the Review of Biblical Literature with suggestions. See: <https://www.bookreviews.org/>
- For those using Zotero as bibliographic management system, you will be glad to hear that an SBL style sheet has been included in their style library which helps you to comply with the requirements of the SBL Handbook of Style.
- It was decided that – due to poor attendance in the past – that no forum meetings will be held in future at the annual meetings. However, the highly successful forum meetings at the international meetings will continue and you are invited to take part in those interesting discussions.

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

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

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

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

The SBL is expanding its international travel award program in the near future. See the info below:

“As of December 1, 2017, the SBL International Travel Awards program will begin accepting applications. The SBL International Travel Awards offer opportunities to

current SBL members outside North America to attend the Annual or International Meeting, to participate in the program, to enhance their professional development, and to build their network with fellow scholars. These grants help facilitate the work of Program Units and the International Cooperation Initiative (“ICI”). These grants are intended to support underrepresented and under-resourced scholars. As such, preference will be given to women, ethnic/racial minorities, and members from ICI-qualifying countries. A key criterion is an applicant’s demonstrable financial need.

Four International Travel Award Panels (ITAP) will administer the awards each year, serving four geographic regions: Asia and Pacific; Latin America and Caribbean; Africa and Middle East; and Eastern Europe.

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

The Call was planned to open on 1 December 2017, but we are somewhat behind schedule in putting in place the infrastructure to handle the application process. A special newsletter will go out soon in which the Call will be formally opened, and in which further details about the application process will be provided. Keep your eyes open for that. There will be enough time during the first months of 2018 to apply.

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

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

The latest volume in ANEM/MACO is:

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

By José E. Balcells Gallarreta

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

**Features:**

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

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

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

**(e) PUBLICATION IN INTERNATIONAL VOICES IN BIBLICAL STUDIES (IVBS)**

IVBS is a series that was established by the SBL at the request of the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI), and which is co-edited by Monica Melanchthon and Jione Havea. IVBS encourages in particular submissions from scholars in the present seven international regions for which it has editorial boards: Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, Middle East-South Asia, Northeast Asia, Pacific, and Southeast Asia. Interregional collaborations are also welcome. IVBS publishes works in English and in any other language for which its editors can find qualified peer reviewers. Any work published in IVBS is freely available to anyone in perpetuity. The series publishes work generally in the area of reception history and criticism. The scope is not limited to any particular biblical text or historical timeframe. The works will mainly be published in English and, wherever possible, also in primary languages of authors. For more information please go to <http://ivbs.sbl-site.org/home.aspx>. If you would consider

publishing your work in this series, feel free to contact one of the two general editors, [Monica Melanchthon](#) or [Jione Havea](#).

The latest volume in IVBS is:

### **A Samoan Reading of Discipleship in Matthew**

By Vaitusi Nofoaiga

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

#### **Features**

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

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

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

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

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

[http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books\\_ICIbooks.aspx](http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books_ICIbooks.aspx))

***Poetry and Theology in the Book of Lamentations: The Aesthetics of an Open Text***

Thomas, Heath A. *Poetry and Theology in the Book of Lamentations: The Aesthetics of an Open Text*. Hebrew Bible Monographs 47. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2013.

The book of Lamentations is a challenge to its readers. Its ambiguous theology, strident protestations against its deity, and haunting imagery confound interpreters. This monograph engages the enigma of Lamentations by assessing its theology.

***Armenian Apocrypha relating to Angels and Biblical Heroes***

Stone, Michael E., *Armenian Apocrypha relating to Angels and Biblical Heroes*. Early Judaism and Its Literature 45. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2016.

Michael E. Stone's latest book includes texts from Armenian manuscripts that are relevant to the development and growth of biblical themes and subjects. Most of these texts have not been published previously. Stone has collected a fascinating corpus of texts about biblical heroes, such as Joseph and Jonah, Nathan the Prophet, and Asaph the Psalmist. In addition, he has included documents illustrating particular points of the biblical story.

***L'influence de l'araméen sur les traducteurs de la LXX principalement, sur les traducteurs grecs postérieurs, ainsi que sur les scribes de la Vorlage de la LXX***

Loiseau, Anne-Françoise. *L'influence de l'araméen sur les traducteurs de la LXX principalement, sur les traducteurs grecs postérieurs, ainsi que sur les scribes de la Vorlage de la LXX*. Septuagint and Cognate Studies 65. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2016.

Loiseau presents examples of Greek translations of verses from the Hebrew Bible that clearly illustrate the influence of Aramaic or Late Hebrew on the semantics of the Septuagint translators. The author postulates that the Greek translators based their translations on Hebrew-Aramaic equivalents maintained as lists or even on proto-targumim such as those found at Qumran, both predecessors of the later Aramaic targumic translations. Loiseau's examples provide convincing explanations for different coincidences occurring between the Greek translations and the interpretative traditions found in the targumim and help elucidate a

number of puzzling translations where two Aramaic words that are very similar graphically or phonetically were erroneously interchanged.

### ***Steps to a New Edition of the Hebrew Bible***

Hendel, Ronald S. *Steps to a New Edition of the Hebrew Bible*. Text-Critical Studies 10. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2016.

Our understanding of the textual history of the Hebrew Bible has been transformed in the wake of the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Hendel explores and refines this new knowledge and formulates a rationale for a new edition of the Hebrew Bible. The chapters situate The Hebrew Bible; A Critical Edition project in a broad historical context, from the beginnings of textual criticism in late antiquity and the Renaissance to the controversies in contemporary theory and practice. This book combines close analysis with broad synthesis, yielding new perspectives on the text of the Hebrew Bible.

### ***Close Encounters between Bible and Film: An Interdisciplinary Engagement***

Copier, Laura, and Caroline Vander Stichele, eds. *Close Encounters between Bible and Film: An Interdisciplinary Engagement*. Semeia Studies 87. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2016.

The present collection of essays is a sequel to the groundbreaking *Semeia* 74 issue, published in 1996, entitled *Biblical Glamour and Hollywood Glitz*. These new essays showcase the divergent approaches from film studies and cultural studies that can be used in the visual analysis of biblical and religious themes, narratives, and characters in cinema. It is the first volume that specifically addresses issues of methodology, theory, and analysis in the study between bible and film. As such, this collection is of interest to scholars in film studies and theology/religion/biblical studies, who are invested in doing interdisciplinary research in the expanding field of religion and film.

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

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

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

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

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

There is also a link to the following Spanish journal:

- Journal of Egyptological Studies

#### [JSTOR provides free or low cost access to more than 1,500 institutions in 69 countries](#)

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

#### Need JSTOR Access?

As part of your Society of Biblical Literature membership, save 50% on the annual JPASS plan, your personal access to the JSTOR archive. With more than 1,900 scholarly journals, JSTOR is one of the world's leading academic databases. Millions of users worldwide rely on JSTOR for research, fact checking, and book reviews. This discounted subscription includes unlimited reading access and 120 article downloads. JSTOR adds new titles every month so you'll have a growing collection of the world's leading peer-reviewed journals only a click away.

To access the discounted JPASS, log-in to the SBL website with your member ID. Just below where you entered your member ID, click membership benefits. You will see JSTOR's JPASS among the benefits and a link "To get your savings: click here."

**(g) ICI TEACHING EXCHANGE AND MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME**

In order to facilitate the exchange of scholars and institutions in biblical studies across the globe, a teaching exchange and mentorship programme 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](#). Also see the **APPENDIX for more information on this initiative.**

**(h) JOURNAL OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE (JBL) ARCHIVE**

Take note that an archive with JBL articles from volume 122.1 of 2003 through volume 130.1 of 2011 is available online to people accessing the SBL website from any ICI country. See [http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/ICI\\_JBLarchive.aspx](http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/ICI_JBLarchive.aspx). All articles in those volumes can be downloaded for free!

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

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

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

**(j) THE SBL WEBSITE**

The SBL website (on the SBL Press page) has a facility where one can search the full text of all SBL books! For this very convenient tool, see:

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

For searching reviews of a vast number of academic publications, see the website of Review of Biblical Literature (RBL) at (you have to log in with your membership number):

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

**(k) EVENTS**

The SBL maintains a significant list of events taking place anywhere in the globe. For the full list please go to <http://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/events.aspx>

A selection of events is listed below—mainly those taking place in ICI regions. Please provide information on conferences in your region, including calls for papers, to Sharon Johnson at [sharon.johnson@sbl-site.org](mailto:sharon.johnson@sbl-site.org).

**April 29 – May 3, 2018****Orion Center International Symposium**

To mark seventy years since the initial discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, an international symposium will be held in Jerusalem, hosted by The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the University of Vienna, New York University, the Israel Antiquities Authority and The Israel Museum. The overarching symposium theme will be “The Wilderness”—as a real place; as the location of biblical episodes, most notably during the formative years of Israel's wandering from Egypt to the Promised Land; as a motif; and as a concept (sometimes idealized, sometimes demonized).

[More information](#)

**July 16-29, 2018****Religion and Empire: Agency and Intersecting Identities**

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

For more information, see:

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

**July 30 – August 3, 2018****2018 SBL International Meeting (in collaboration with the European Association of Biblical Studies)**

Helsinki, Finland

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

**November 17-20, 2018**

**2018 SBL Annual Meeting**

Denver, Colorado

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

#### **(I) SBL EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FREELY AVAILABLE**

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

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

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

Any topics you would like to see Bible Odyssey addresses? Just send a message to: [bow@sbl-site.org](mailto:bow@sbl-site.org)

#### **(m) PLEASE PASS ON THE INFORMATION**

Please share this newsletter with your colleagues and students and become a liaison for your institution and SBL. (Please contact our liaison officer, [Jackie du Toit](#), if you would like to assist as contact person in your region.) Your advocacy for ICI strengthens biblical studies as a discipline and builds relationships in the global community. Thank you to those who have done so in the past—we also receive letters from people who received the newsletter from someone else.

Since this is the last ICI newsletter that will be sent out by me, allow me to thank everybody who was always willing to give their assistance and energy for the greater aim of fostering biblical scholarship on an international scale. It was my privilege to serve this initiative in the past years, and I wish the organization and the ICI well for the future. But, most of all, my best wishes accompany your Bible scholarship in your part of the world!

Louis Jonker, SBL – International Cooperation Initiative

PS: The new chairperson of ICI, [dr. Juan Tebes](#), hails from Argentina and is presently teaching on a part-time basis in the United States. He has been involved in ICI in the past years as one of the two co-editors for the ICI series, Ancient Near Eastern Monographs (ANEM) where he did

sterling work. He has been part of the executive committee in the past years, and therefore is well-equipped to lead this initiative in the next few years. I wish him and his committee well for their work.

## APPENDIX: TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

SBL ICI serves as host site for this program, with interested SBL members invited to contact each other directly. ICI had until now no means of determining the nature or effectiveness of the current program and of pinpointing where and how we would best be able to assist in serving the ICI constituency. We sent individual emails to each volunteer on the current list<sup>1</sup> who have posted in the following categories since 2009:

- To mentor or co-teach (31)
- Travel abroad to teach (35)
- Teach via electronic media (22)

As of yet we haven't contacted the institutions on the separate institutional list.<sup>2</sup>

The majority of the individual volunteers come from the US (63%), followed by India (10%) with one or two volunteers from Argentina, Australia, Canada, Central African Republic, China, Germany, Italy, Nigeria, Romania and South Africa. Accounting for some overlap between volunteers in various categories, the response rate to date stands at approximately 50% and we expect to hear from more. This is remarkable given that the majority of volunteers posted in 2009 and 2014, that is, not particularly recently.<sup>3</sup> In our email we thanked the members for volunteering, gave background on our request and asked for their assistance. We asked three questions:

**Question 1:** *Since your name has been added to the list on the SBL website, have you been contacted by colleagues or institutions from ICI countries? If so, please indicate whether this has led to the desired result, e.g., teaching exchange; mentorship relationship; supervisory support; etc.*

**Question 2:** *Are you still available to participate in this venture?*

**Question 3:** *We'd appreciate any input/suggestions of how to increase the effectiveness and extend the reach of the teaching collaboration and mentoring program. Please feel free to share this, as well as any ideas you might have in this regard.*

The response has been overwhelmingly positive and supportive of the program, especially in offering insightful and unprompted additional information. For example, with the exception of two respondents, the answer to question one was that none were contacted via the ICI list. However, a number of respondents noted that they have since participated in exchanges set up primarily through informal peer networks, suggesting that although they couldn't credit the ICI list directly, they were not discounting the possibility that the ICI's initiative prompted such exchanges. Many respondents also stressed the importance of the potential impact of such a program on the academy.

All except one respondent indicated that they were still available to participate, although life changes and changes in professional position prompted some to indicate that they are not necessarily available in the categories they first volunteered, such as, for example, participating in an extended teaching abroad program.

The third question resulted in valuable suggestions on how best to target and increase the effectiveness of

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sbl-site.org/educational/ICIScholarList.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.sbl-site.org/educational/ICInstitutionList.aspx>. Going back to 2009, there are nine institutions listed as willing to host individual volunteers. One institution indicated wanted institutional partnerships.

<sup>3</sup> Based on the month of posting, it seems as if the list is visited or garners activity, at about the time of responding to the deadline for the annual meeting's call for papers (March), or during or after the international meeting (June/July). But the sample size is too small to make significant deductions from this.

the program and also make meaningful changes to its scope:

*Effectiveness of the program:*

1. Advertising the program: A number of respondents suggested that the program should be publicized more widely, giving practical advice such as the suggestion that email lists such as Agade, ANE-2, Biblical Studies, Near Eastern Archaeology and EEFF (Egyptology) should be utilized. Further, to raise the visibility of <https://www.sbl-site.org/educational/ICIScholarList.aspx> on the web: “For instance, even if one intentionally searches for the string: PhD mentorship ‘biblical studies’ on Google, the list does not come up.”
2. Ease of access and presentation: The current lists are difficult to search. Volunteers are listed by name rather than by institution or discipline and information rarely updated. One respondent suggested that a volunteer search mechanism similar to SBL’s employment portal, might be more functional, putting as much emphasis on the institutional list as on the volunteer list: “What I REALLY wish the SBL would do along these lines is set up a website where schools in other parts of the world who are looking for someone to fill a short-term need (sabbatical, visiting professor, etc.) could post their positions and SBL members in the US and elsewhere could contact them to learn more and possibly apply.”
3. Showing how the process would work in practice. Although enthusiastic about the idea, one respondent mentioned an important point that has also been raised in conversations with SBL members in Berlin. “I would be interested to know more about teaching exchanges. I wonder how institutions make that happen (what are the logistics or how is it worked out practically or contractually?). If that is something our administrators would be keen to, it would be a wonderful idea. I just don’t know what precedents are possible.”

*Scope and purpose of the program:*

1. Reconceiving the impact and goal of the program. One respondent’s ardent appeal for active SBL engagement suggested that the program has the potential to become of critical importance to the academy in combating shrinking resources, human and otherwise, and expertise in specialist areas across the globe. The respondent mentioned the following for consideration in an appeal for adaptation in ICI “strategy” and more active engagement: “I seriously believe the ICI initiative would have helped to develop the quality of our postgraduate programs.” The respondent suggests that this is true for combating parochialism, in the development and sharing of disciplinary expertise, but also to share ideas and resources in the management of current postgraduate programs. “I also think that the exchange should move beyond just sharing of expertise to sharing of students and resources.” Some of this was echoed by some of the other respondents.
2. More than one respondent noted the additional need for the volunteering of supervisory expertise, but also a list of volunteers to act as external examiners.

*Next steps:*

1. Active communication with volunteers: SBL has linked Jackie’s email address and she will from now on be notified if a new volunteer submission is made. This will allow us to engage with new volunteers from the first and perhaps in future act as active agents in making exchanges possible.
2. SBL data collection: in order to better target our future efforts, we are in the process of working with Chris Hooker to assemble SBL membership data for ICI and non-ICI countries that would target recently graduated PhDs up to eight years post-PhD. We are particularly interested in this constituency partly because the most recent SBL Jobs Advertisement Data (2015-2016) indicates

a continued decrease in jobs availability, combined with an increase in the requirement for experience in, e.g., online teaching. This leaves recently graduated PhDs vulnerable and may indicate that the ICI teaching and mentoring initiative may prove valuable in future to enable these members to gain experience and offer the opportunity for mentorship by ICI members in many respects more experienced in dealing with large classes, limited resources, distance education, etc. Suggestions from ICI members on additional data to be requested from SBL in order to better target the future efforts of this program, would be highly appreciated.

3. More research is also needed on informal networks and how they work – these seems to be the most successful component on which the current program has been piggy-backing, for want of a better term.
4. Contact institutional representatives on the institutional list, posing similar questions than to individuals, but also asking for advice on how to make these exchanges work in practice, as suggested by one of the respondents. Suggested further follow-up: arranging possible future ICI workshops to coincide with SBL meetings on the practical aspects of enabling individual and institutional exchanges.
5. Engage with SBL about possibly redesigning the presentation of the ICI volunteer lists to make it more searchable and interactive.
6. In light of the above, we'd like to hold off on a major effort to advertise the program in its current form until we have concluded our research and made adjustments for targeted engagement. This includes "household chores" such as updating contact and other information of the existing volunteers and finding a reliable way of doing this regularly. A number of email addresses, e.g., were no longer active and a number of volunteers have changed situation and institution, prompting also changes in the categories they were willing to volunteer for.

In conclusion, the ICI teaching and mentorship program offers exciting future possibilities, including significant future impact on the academy.

Jackie du Toit