

## SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE ICI REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 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**. Program Book is **available**.

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*	<a href="http://www.hostelfish.com">www.hostelfish.com</a>	1217 20th St., Denver, CO 80202	(303) 954-0962	\$43/night (dorms) to \$120/night (private)	1 mile
11th Avenue Hotel and Hostel*	<a href="http://www.11thavenuehotelandhostel.com">www.11thavenuehotelandhostel.com</a>	1112 Broadway, Denver, CO 80204	(303) 894-0529	\$30/night (dorms) to \$55/night (single)	1 mile
Ember Hostel*	<a href="http://www.emberhostels.com">www.emberhostels.com</a>	857 Grant St., Denver, CO 80203	(303) 942-1633	\$50/night (dorms) to \$120/night (private)	1.5 miles
La Quinta Inn Denver Central	<a href="http://www.laquintadenvercentral.com">www.laquintadenvercentral.com</a>	3500 Park Ave. West, Denver, CO 80216	(303) 458-1222	\$64/night	2 miles
Motel 6 Denver Central	<a href="http://www.motel6.com">www.motel6.com</a>	3050 W 49th Ave., Denver CO 80221	(303) 455-888	\$77/night	5 miles
Extended Stay American Denver-Cherry Creek	<a href="http://www.extendedstayamerica.com">www.extendedstayamerica.com</a>	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 2019, BANGALORE

The next SBL International Meeting will take place in Bangalore, India, from 23 July to 26 July 2019.

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

**Visa letters for travel to the Annual or International Meetings**

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

**SBL INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AWARDS**

As of **December 1, 2018**, the SBL Travel Grant program will begin accepting Applications.

**Deadlines**

**1 December 2018**: International Travel Award application opens.

**15 February 2019**: Deadline – Application form and recommendation letter.

15 April 2019: Award decisions will be announced.

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 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](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:

**Invention of the First-Century Synagogue**

**By Lidia D. Matassa, edited by Jason M. Silverman, and J. Murray Watson, ANEM 22. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2018.**

Crucial insights into the difficult issues in early synagogue identification.

This work critically reevaluates the scholarship surrounding the identification of first-century synagogues at five key sites: Delos, Jericho, Herodium, Masada, and Gamla. These sites are consistently used in modern scholarship as comparators for all other early synagogues. Matassa reviews the scholarly discourse concerning each site, inspects each site, and examines the excavation reports in conjunction with a thorough analysis of the literary and epigraphic evidence. She uncovers misunderstandings of the site remains by previous scholars and concludes that excavators incorrectly identified synagogues at Delos, Jericho, Masada, and Herodium. In the case of Gamla, however, the identification may be correct.

Features:

A detailed and in-depth study of key archaeological sites that confirms and corrects the current understanding of their remains.

A clear review of the material evidence

More than forty maps, images, and illustrations

Lidia D. Matassa was an independent scholar and founding president of the Irish Association for the Study of the Ancient Near East. She participated in a number of excavations in Israel and helped organize multiple interdisciplinary conferences in Dublin. She coedited *Text, Theology, and Trowel: Recent Research into the Hebrew Bible* (2011). Matassa passed away suddenly in January 2016.

**(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 Melancthon](#) 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](http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books_ICIbooks.aspx)

**New books added to the repository!:**

**Wiley, Henrietta L., and Christian A. Eberhart, eds. *Sacrifice, Cult, and Atonement in Early Judaism and Christianity: Constituents and Critique*. Resources for Biblical Study 85. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2017.**

This volume features a selection of presentations delivered at annual conferences of the Society of Biblical Literature for the Sacrifice, Cult, and Atonement section between the years 2011 and 2014. The contributions to this volume deal in various ways with the cult at the Jerusalem Temple that epitomized the religious, cultural, and socio-political identity of Judaism for many centuries.

**von Thaden, Robert H., Jr. *Sex, Christ, and Embodied Cognition: Paul's Wisdom for Corinth*. Emory Studies in Early Christianity 16. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2017.**

Robert H. von Thaden Jr.'s socio-rhetorical analysis examines Paul's construction of sexual Christian bodies in First Corinthians by utilizing new insights from conceptual integration (blending) theory about the embodied processes of meaning making. Paul's teaching about proper sexual behavior in this letter is best viewed as an example of early Christian wisdom discourse. This discourse draws upon apocalyptic and priestly cognitive frames to increase the rhetorical force of the argument. Reading Paul's argument through the lens of rhetorical invention, von Thaden demonstrates that Paul first attempts to show the Corinthians why sexual immorality is the worst of all bodily sins before shifting rhetorical focus to explain to them how they can best avoid this infraction against the body of Christ.

**Karner, Gerhard, Frank Ueberschaer, and Burkard M. Zapff, eds. *Texts and Contexts of the Book of Sirach/Texte und Kontexte des Sirachbuches*. Septuagint and Cognate Studies 66. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2017.**

Thirteen essays, some in German and others in English, tackle the complicated history of textual transmission of Sirach. This book presents the proceedings of an international conference held in 2014 in Eichstaett, Germany on the text of Ben Sira within its historical contexts. Contributors include James K. Aitken, Pierre-Maurice Bogaert, Franz Böhmisch, Anthony J. Forte SJ, Jan Joosten, Otto Kaiser, Siegfried Kreuzer, Jean-Sébastien Rey, Werner Urbanz, Knut Usener, Oda Wischmeyer, Markus Witte, Benjamin G. Wright, and Burkard M. Zapff.

**Hogan, Karina Martin, Matthew Goff, and Emma Wasserman, eds. *Pedagogy in Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity*. Early Judaism and Its Literature 41. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2017.**

There is little direct evidence for formal education in the Bible and in the texts of Second Temple Judaism and early Christianity. At the same time, pedagogy and character formation are important themes in many of these texts. This book explores the pedagogical purpose of wisdom literature, in which the concept of discipline (Hebrew *musar*) is closely tied to the acquisition of wisdom. It examines how and why the concept of *musar* came to be translated as *paideia* (education, enculturation) in the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible (Septuagint), and how the concept of *paideia* was deployed by ancient Jewish authors writing in Greek. The different understandings of *paideia* in wisdom and apocalyptic writings of Second Temple Judaism are this book's primary focus. It also examines how early Christians adapted the concept of *paideia*, influenced by both the Septuagint and Greco-Roman understandings of this concept.

**Culpepper, R. Alan, and Paul N. Anderson, eds. *John and Judaism: A Contested Relationship in Context*. Resources for Biblical Study 87. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2017.**

The Gospel of John was written during the period of the emergence of Christianity and its separation from Judaism and bears witness to their contested relationship. This volume contains eighteen cutting-edge essays written by an international group of scholars who interpret for students and general readers what the book tells us about first-century Judaism, the separation of the church from Judaism, and how John's anti-Jewish references are being interpreted today.

**Spencer, F. Scott, ed. *Mixed Feelings and Vexed Passions: Exploring Emotions in Biblical Literature*. Resources for Biblical Study 90. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2017.**

An international team of Hebrew Bible and New Testament scholars offers incisive case studies of passions displayed by divine and human figures in the biblical texts ranging from joy, happiness, and trust to grief, hate, and disgust. Essays address how biblical characters' feelings affect their relationship with God, one another, and the world and how these feelings mix together, for good or ill, for flourishing or vexation. Deeply engaged with both ancient and modern contexts, including the burgeoning interdisciplinary study of emotion in the humanities and sciences, these essays break down the artificial divide between reason and passion, cognition and emotion, thought and feeling in biblical study.

**Sharon, Nadav. *Judea under Roman Domination: The First Generation of Statelessness and Its Legacy*. Early Judaism and Its Literature 46. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2017.**

Nadav Sharon closely examines a critical period in Judean history, which saw the end of the Hasmonean dynasty and the beginning of Roman domination of Judea leading up to the kingship of Herod (67-37 BCE). In this period renowned Roman figures such as Pompey the Great, Julius Caesar, Gaius Cassius (a conspirator against Caesar), and Mark Anthony, led the Roman Republic on the eve of its transformation into an Empire, each having his own dealings with and holding

sway over Judea at different times. This volume explores the impact of the Roman conquest on the authors of the Dead Sea Scrolls, enhances the understanding of later Judean-Roman relations and the roots of the Great Revolt, and examines how this early period of Roman domination had an impact on later developments in Judean society and religion.

**Rogers, Justin M. *Didymus the Blind and the Alexandrian Christian Reception of Philo*. Studia Philonica Monograph 8. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2017.**

Justin M. Rogers surveys commentaries on Genesis, Job, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, and Zechariah by Didymus the Blind (ca. 313–398 CE), who was regarded by his students as one of the greatest Christian exegetes of the fourth century. Rogers highlights Didymus’s Jewish sources, zeroing in on traditions of Philo of Alexandria, whose treatises were directly accessible to Didymus while he was authoring his exegetical works. Philonic material in Didymus is covered by extensive commentary, demonstrating that Philo was among the principle sources for the exegetical works of Didymus the Blind. Rogers also explores the mediating influence of the Alexandrian Christian tradition, focusing especially on the roles of Clement and Origen.

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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](#).

**(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](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](mailto:sharon.johnson@sbl-site.org).

#### **10/4-10/7 2018 Byzantine Studies Conference/BSC**

The Byzantine Studies Association of North America will hold their conference at the The University of Texas at San Antonio/The Historic Menger Hotel, San Antonio. Papers from a wide range of disciplines will be presented, including those connecting Byzantium and neighboring Christian Medieval traditions with Islamic art, architecture, and culture.

<https://www.bsc2018.com/>

#### **10/19-10/20 Visual Theology I: Transformative Looking Between the Visual Arts and Christian Doctrine (1850 – Now)**

This conference aims to create the space for theologically engaged conversations between religion and the arts, focussing on visual media produced or received in the modern period (1850 onwards). It encourages the critical explorations of Christian theology in images where such explorations account for the dynamic and reflexive contexts of 'post-secular' interpretation.

<https://www.visualtheology.org.uk/programme/>

#### **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>

### **10/24-10/26 Psalms in Rituals from Antiquity to the Present**

Although the origins of the Psalms of the Hebrew Bible and their original Sitz im Leben remain hidden in the history of Israel yet to be uncovered, the Psalms became liturgical texts and parts of religious rituals in several religious traditions. The literary genre as such, their intimate connection to human experience and emotions as well as their form easily lend themselves to liturgical practice making them prime texts to be performed in religious rituals. At the same time, the psalms became means of identifying identity, of inclusion and exclusion. How are the psalms used to create exclusive distinct identities, where do they create connections between religious groups and identities? Are there parallel (liturgical) developments in Jewish and Christian traditions? Are there any direct influences and exchanges between the religious traditions that involve the psalms? The Research Centre “Dynamics of Jewish Ritual Practices in Pluralistic Contexts from Antiquity to the Present” located at the University of Erfurt will investigate some of these questions during its conference “Psalms in Rituals from Antiquity to the Present”, which will take place October 24th to 26, 2018. The following researchers will present: Erhard Gerstenberger (Marburg), Angela Kim Harkins (Boston), Beate Ego (Bochum), Mika Pajunen (Helsinki), Günter Stemberger (Wien), Clemens Leonhard (Münster), A.J. Berkovitz (Princeton), Ophir Münz-Manor (Jerusalem/Hamburg), Esther Menn (Chicago), Isaac Kalimi (Mainz), Alan Cooper (New York), Ruth Langer (Boston), Rebecca Sebbagh (Erfurt), Jürgen Bärsch (Eichstätt-Ingolstadt), Harald Buchinger (Regensburg), Andreas Haug

(Würzburg), Bill Rebigier (Hamburg), Susanne Talabardon (Bamberg) and Benedikt Kranemann (Erfurt). On the evening of October 24, the Research Centre is pleased to invite all conference participants as well as the general public to a lecture/concert featuring Jascha Nemtsov and the Klenke-Quartett. They will perform works by Ursula Mamlok and Leo Ornstein.

<https://www.uni-erfurt.de/index.php?id=36980&L=1>

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

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

**1/23-1/25 Prayer and the Ancient City: Influences of Urban Space**

The Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg will host the conference. The workshop is a first attempt to investigate the impact of urban space on prayer practices and related religious thought and belief in antiquity

<https://www.theologie.uni-halle.de/nt/aktuelles/>

**7/21-7/24 The British Association of Jewish Studies Conference**

BAJS Annual Conference will be held at the University of Oxford. Theme: What is Commentary?

<https://britishjewishstudies.org/about/conference-2018/>

**7/23-7/26 SBL International Meeting**

Our host institution is the United Theological College, Bangalore, India.

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

**7/30-8/2 Society for New Testament Studies**

SNTS 2019 General Meeting will be held in Marburg, Germany.

<http://snts.international/general-meetings/>

**August 2019**

**8/4-8/9 International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament**

The 23rd Congress of IOSOT will be held at the University of Aberdeen.

<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/events/conferences/iosot/index.php>

**8/11-8/14 European Association of Biblical Studies**

2019 Annual Conference will be held in Warsaw, Poland.

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

**(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](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 address? Just send a message to: [bow@sbl-site.org](mailto: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](#), 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

Director, Centro de Estudios de Historia del Antiguo Oriente

Co-Editor, Ancient Near East Monographs

Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina

Researcher, CONICET - National Research Council of Argentina

Chair, International Cooperation Initiative & Coordinator, International Travel Awards

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