

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE ICI REPORT FOR APRIL 2016

(a) IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT SBL MEMBERSHIP FEES

It was announced recently that the SBL has started a new membership rate structure. The new structure commenced on 1 February 2016. For more information, see: <http://sbl-site.org/membership/joinnow.aspx>

(b) THE NEXT SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING: SEOUL 2016

The 2016 International Meeting will take place in Seoul from 3–7 July 2016. The **Call for Papers** has now closed. Registration for the conference is now open. See <http://sbl-site.org/meetings/Internationalmeeting.aspx>

Another ICI panel discussion will be held there. The following persons will form the panel at this discussion (which will be moderated by Charles Haws from the SBL staff):

- Dr Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon, Pilgrim Theological College, Melbourne, Australia, and co-editor of one of the ICI publication series, *International Voices in Biblical Studies (IVBS)*;
- Dr Nasili Vaka'uta, Trinity Methodist Theological College, Auckland, New Zealand, and contributor to ICI publications;
- Dr Koog-Pyoung Hong, Yonsei University, Seoul, and part of the organizing committee of the Seoul ISBL;
- Prof Louis Jonker, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, and chairperson of the ICI.

This will be another excellent opportunity to interact with our Asian colleagues. We wish the local organizing committee well for the hard work that lies ahead.

(c) THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING 2016, SAN ANTONIO

The SBL Annual Meeting will be held from November 19-22, 2016 in San Antonio, Texas. The Call for Papers is now closed.

Registration and **accommodation reservations** are now open. See: http://sbl-site.org/meetings/meetings_registrationAM.aspx

An ICI **Forum discussion** will be held again. More information will follow later.

(d) VISA PROBLEMS

We are aware of the fact that many scholars from ICI countries often experience administrative problems to get a visa in time to attend the international and annual SBL conferences. Although bureaucratic protocols beyond our control are often involved in these difficulties, we are having discussions within the ICI leadership on how scholars can be assisted in this regard. SBL staff will work proactively to study the visa requirements of countries where the international meeting will be held and will then post information in this newsletter and on the SBL website to advise scholars in their visa applications. The following guidelines should also be taken into account:

- Start planning your attendance of a particular conference well in advance – at least six months;
- Enquire well in advance from the particular embassy or consulate in your own country what the exact requirements are for applying for a visa, and how long the application would take to process;
- Make absolutely sure that you attend to all the requirements, and that you submit your visa application well in advance;
- Should you need an official invitation letter from the SBL Head Office, or from the organizing committee in the country where the SBL International meeting will take place, request that well in advance in order to include in your visa application (the contact details of the SBL staff member handling these requests is: Samantha Spitzner samantha.spitzner@sbl-site.org);
- Enquire regularly at the embassy or consulate where you have submitted your application.

(e) 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:

Priests and Cults in the Book of the Twelve

Edited by Lena-Sofia Tiemeyer

This book discusses the depictions of the cult and its personnel in the twelve prophetic books commonly referred to as the Book of the Twelve or the Minor Prophets. The articles in the volume explore the following questions: How did these prophetic writers envision the priests and the Levites? What did they think about the ritual aspects of ancient Israelite faith, including not only the official temple cult in Jerusalem but also cultic expressions outside the capital? What, in their views, characterized a faithful priest and what should the relationship be between his cultic performance and the ways in which he lived his life? How does the message of each individual author fit in with the wider Israelite traditions? Finally, who were these prophetic authors, in which historical contexts did they live and work, and what stylistic tools did they use to communicate their message?

Features:

- Essays investigate the ways in which key texts in the Book of the Twelve endorse, criticize, seek to reform, or seek to abolish the cult and clergy
- Articles focus on the books of Hosea, Joel, Amos, Zephaniah, Zechariah, and Malachi, but include other texts
- Exploration of how the attitudes towards cult and clergy in these key texts tie in with the attitudes found elsewhere in the Book of the Twelve

To download the book for free, paste the following link into your browser:
http://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/pubs/9780884141532_OA.pdf

(f) 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:

Reading Ruth in Asia

Edited by Jione Havea and Peter Lau

This monograph contains readings of texts and themes from the Book of Ruth by scholars from Asia. There is a strong mix of postcolonial and contextual flavors in the essays, which together give readers a taste of Biblical Criticism in Asia. Special attention is given to the literary, cultural, gender and minoritized subjects in the Book of Ruth.

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

http://ivbs.sbl-site.org/uploads/9780884141006_OA.pdf

(g) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS – NEW BOOKS ADDED

(For the full list, please go to http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books_ICIbooks.aspx)

The Psalms of Solomon: Language, History, Theology

Bons, Eberhard, and Patrick Pouchelle, eds. *The Psalms of Solomon: Language, History, Theology*. Early Judaism and Its Literature 40. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2015.

Researchers whose work focuses on the Psalms of Solomon, experts on the Septuagint, and scholars of Jewish Hellenistic literature take a fresh look at debates surrounding the text. Authors engage linguistic, historical, and theological issues, including the original language of the psalms, their historical setting, and their theological intentions, with the goal of expanding our understanding of first-century BCE Jewish theology.

Features:

- New methods applied to open questions of authorship and historical context
- Focused scholarly attention on a work of theological and literary importance
- Revised essays originally presented at the First International Meeting on the Psalms of Solomon

Proverbs: An Eclectic Edition with Introduction and Textual Commentary

Fox, Michael V. *Proverbs: An Eclectic Edition with Introduction and Textual Commentary*. The Hebrew Bible: A Critical Edition 1. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2015.

This first volume of The Hebrew Bible: A Critical Edition series features a critical text of Proverbs with extensive text-critical introductions and commentaries. This and future HBCE volumes bring together a scholar's critical decisions into an eclectic text, drawing from many manuscripts or placing entirely variant texts side by side. A common approach for critical editions of other ancient books, including the New Testament, the eclectic approach and scope used in the HBCE is a first of its kind for the Hebrew Bible.

Features:

- Emendations set in context rather than singly and marginally
- Introduction that sets out the method and purpose of the volume
- Extensive list of abbreviations and sigla

Meaning and Context in The Thanksgiving Hymns: Linguistic and Rhetorical Perspectives on a Collection of Prayers from Qumran

Hasselbalch, Trine B. *Meaning and Context in The Thanksgiving Hymns: Linguistic and Rhetorical Perspectives on a Collection of Prayers from Qumran*. Early Judaism and Its Literature 42. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2015.

Hasselbalch asserts that current theories about the social background of the Thanksgiving Hymns are unable to explain its heterogeneous character. Instead the author suggests a reading strategy that leaves presumptions about the underlying social contexts aside to instead consider the collection's hybridity as a clue to understanding the collection as a whole.

Features:

- Systemic Functional Linguistics applied to four Hodayot
- Analysis that highlights the role of a mediator in the agency of God
- An approach that highlights the unity of the collection

Jesus and Mary Reimagined in Early Christian Literature

Robbins, Vernon K., and Jonathan M. Potter, eds. *Jesus and Mary Reimagined in Early Christian Literature*. Writings from the Greco-Roman World Supplement Series 6. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2015.

This book presents essays that show how prophetic and priestly emphases in Luke and Acts, and emphasis on Jesus's existence prior to creation in the Gospel of John, are reworked in some second- and third-century Christian literature. Early Christians interpreted and expressed the storylines of Jesus, Mary, and other important figures in ways that created new images and stories. Contributors show the effect of including rhetography, the rhetoric of a text that prompts images and pictures in the mind of a hearer or reader, in interpretation of texts.

Features:

- Readings that attempt to account for the development of richly creative and complicated early Christian traditions
- Essays bridging New Testament studies and interpretation of Early Christian literature
- Interpretations that integrate social and rhetorical interpretations

(h) 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 [Tim Langille](#).

(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

Please take note that the SBL website has a new look, reflecting the new corporate identity and logo of the organization. Check out the new functionality and discover all the wonderful resources available there.

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.

May 30 – June 10, 2016**Nida School of Translation Studies: Translation, Ecology and Entanglement**

The 2016 Nida School of Translation Studies will be held in Misano, Italy exploring the theme of “Translation, Ecology and Entanglement” with Nida Professors Michael Cronin (Dublin City University) and Gerald West (KwaZulu-Natal). As past Nida Professor Timothy Beal (Case Western Reserve) has reflected, “NSTS offers just the kind of experience so many of us long for: a genuinely collegial intellectual community in which scholars with different backgrounds and research interests come together in ways that are generative of new questions and perspectives.” We are confident that this tenth iteration of the school will once again offer a very rich time of study and discovery together.

[More information](#)

July 2, 2016**Society of Asian Biblical Studies (SABS): Moving Margins: Biblical Studies in 21st century Asia**

If you are planning to attend the meetings of the ISBL 2016 in Seoul, Korea, come a day early and join the fifth Biennial meetings of our partner organization, the Society of

Asian Biblical Studies (SABS), a professional academic society to promote biblical interpretation and research in Asia and/or through Asian lenses. It is meeting adjacent to and in collaboration with the Society of Biblical Literature on the 2nd of July 2016. SABS is organizing further sessions which will be scheduled within the ISBL program from the 3-7 of July 2016.

For more information [email Secretary SABS](#)

July 3-7, 2016

2016 SBL International Meeting

Seoul, South Korea

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

July, 10-14, 2016

Teaching Hebrew Morphology in the 21st Century

Workshop with Dr. Tania Notarius, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

[email for more information](#)

July, 26-29, 2016

Postcolonial Hermeneutics

The VIII National Symposium of the Society of Indonesian Biblical Scholars (ISBI) will be held at STAKN Toraja, Sulawesi Selatan, Indonesia. Language: Bahasa Indonesia.

Email: [Marnangkok Situmorang](#) for more information.

August 2-5, 2016

General Meeting of Studiorum Novi Testament Societas

Society for New Testament Studies (SNTS) will hold their 2016 General Meeting in Montreal, Canada.

For updates and information, see <https://www.edugroepen.nl/sites/SNTS/default.aspx>

August 9-11, 2016

Ethnicity/Race/Religion: Identities, Ideologies, and Intersections in Biblical Texts and Interpretation (Centre for Biblical Studies, University of Exeter, UK)

How do ethnicity and race feature in constructions of identity in biblical texts? How have ideologies of race shaped biblical interpretation past and present? And how has the Bible and its interpretation contributed to racial ideologies and racist practices? These are the key issues to be explored in this international conference. Religion and ethnicity or race – the terms are contested and unavoidably loaded – are facets of identity that intersect and overlap in complex and varied ways. They are neither

identical nor entirely separable, but clearly bound up in some of the most intractable and prominent conflicts in the contemporary world.

One of the aims of the conference is to explore and to problematize the extent to which the dominant models of biblical scholarship remain ‘Western’ in their assumptions, and to consider what breaking out of these might entail.

Speakers: Professor Musa Dube, University of Botswana Dr Ma. Marilou S. Ibita, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, and the Institute of Formation and Religious Studies, Quezon City, the Philippines. Dr Gregory Cuéllar, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, USA.

[More information.](#)

September 4-9, 2016

2016 Meeting of the International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament (IOSOT)

For the first time in its more than 50-years history the IOSOT will convene on African soil in 2016. The triennial meeting will take place at the University of Stellenbosch, Western Cape, South Africa. Updates and more information will be posted on the <http://www.iosot2016.co.za/> The Call for Papers is now closed. **Registration** is open, and early-bird rates apply until 30 June 2016. For further information, contact: LCJ@sun.ac.za

November 19-22, 2016

2016 SBL Annual Meeting

San Antonio, Texas

<http://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. This portal offers wonderful educational resources, but also resources for broader popular audiences. Use this site to popularize our academic studies in faith communities!

(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, [Tim Langille](#), 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.

With best wishes for your Bible scholarship!

Louis Jonker, SBL – International Cooperation Initiative