

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE ICI REPORT FOR AUGUST 2017

(a) THE SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING 2017, BERLIN

This was one of the biggest international meetings, with almost 1200 participants. Apart from the great variety of sessions, we also had a very successful ICI Forum meeting in which a panel of renowned scholars took part to share their various experiences of doing their scholarship “between different worlds”. Erhard Gerstenberger, Diana Edelman, Nancy Tan, and Gerald West introduced the topic, and John Kutsko from SBL shared the society’s vision for internationalization. Thereafter, there was lively participation from the audience to share their experiences from their parts of the world. It became clear from this discussion that regular, two-way exchange between traditional western biblical scholarship and global southern biblical scholarship is not only a strategic gesture to make, but is vital for deepening our scholarship in all parts of the world. Through exchange and interaction, biblical scholars around the globe get the opportunity to bring their own methodologies into discourse with others, highlighting that “truth” cannot be claimed from only one perspective. New initiatives for the scholarly exchange program of ICI were also announced in this context. It was furthermore emphasized in the discussion that Eastern European biblical scholars are often struggling to bring their scholarship, in which scholars from Orthodox traditions often take part, into the international discourse. The inclusion of this branch of scholarship can be enriching and should be facilitated by SBL-ICI. Thank you for everybody who attended and took part in the discussion.

(b) THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING 2017, BOSTON

The next SBL Annual Meeting will take place in Boston, Massachusetts, from 18-21 November 2017. The Call for Papers has closed already, and registration is open. See this link: <https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/Annualmeeting.aspx>

TAKE NOTE ABOUT VISA APPLICATIONS: We have taken note that some changes have taken place under the new presidency in the United States with reference to immigration and visas. The SBL Executive is monitoring the situation and will keep its membership and the ICI updated on any further developments. If you plan to go to Boston and have to apply for a visa, please plan ahead so that your application will be submitted well in advance.

For those looking for **more affordable accommodation at the Boston meeting**, the following list may be of assistance. PLEASE TAKE NOTE that these accommodation options are provided as a courtesy to ICI members, and that the ICI and SBL do not take any responsibility for reservations, quality or safety of these lodgings.

HI Boston**	www.bostonhostel.org	19 Stuart Street, Boston, MA 02116	\$60
Armory Guest House**	www.thearmoryhouse.com	62-64 Amory Street, Cambridge, MA 02139	\$86
Quarters on DOT by Short Term Rentals Boston	www.shorttermrentalsboston.com	80 Dorchester Street, Boston, MA 02127	\$100
La Quinta Inn & Suites Boston - Somerville	www.lq.com	23 Cummings St., Somerville, MA 02145	\$105
Ramada Boston	www.wyndhamhotels.com	800 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02122	\$119
Best Western Plus Boston Hotel	www.bestwestern.com	891 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, MA 02118	\$122
Coolidge Corner Guest House**	www.brooklinebedandbreakfast.com	17-19 Littell Road, Brookline, MA 02146-6504	\$129

**Hostel or guest house may have common shared dormitories or bathrooms

(c) 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 will open soon. 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.

(d) **NEW!!!! SBL INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AWARDS**

The SBL will be expanding its international travel award program in the near future. The following is planned:

“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 underresourced 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.

Further news about this exciting development will be conveyed through this newsletter, and the call for applications will also be circulated through the ICI newsletter address list.

(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

The latest volumes 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

(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 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)

Religious Competition in the Greco-Roman World

DesRosiers, Nathaniel P., and Lily C. Vuong, eds. *Religious Competition in the Greco-Roman World*. Writings from the Greco-Roman World Supplement series 10. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2016.

Scholars in the fields of late antique Christianity, neoplatonism, New Testament, art history, and rabbinics examine issues related to authority, identity, and change in religious and philosophical traditions of late antiquity. The specific focus of the volume is the examination of cultural producers and their particular viewpoints and agendas in an attempt to shed new light on the religious thinkers, texts, and material remains of late antiquity. The essays explore the major creative movements of the era, examining the strategies used to develop and designate orthodoxies and orthopraxies. This collection of essays reinterprets dialogues between individuals and groups, illuminating the mutual competition and influence among these ancient thinkers and communities.

Lydia as a Rhetorical Construct in Acts

Gruca-Macaulay, Alexandra. *Lydia as a Rhetorical Construct in Acts*. Emory Studies in Early Christianity 18. Atlanta : SBL Press, 2016.

In *Lydia as a Rhetorical Construct in Acts*, Gruca-Macaulay explores the sociorhetorical function of the story of Lydia, a named Lydian woman ancient interpreters would have associated with cultural stereotypes of Lydians. As a rhetorical figure, Lydia both influenced and was influenced by the ideology of the surrounding text in Acts 16, as well as the approach Luke–Acts as a whole takes to people who are somehow like Lydia.

The Joseph of Genesis as Hellenistic Scientist

Jovanović, Ljubica. *The Joseph of Genesis as Hellenistic Scientist*. Hebrew Bible Monographs 48. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2013.

To today's confrontations between religion and science Jovanovic contrasts the vibrant collaboration that characterizes Jewish, Christian, and Islamic beginnings. Designation of the patriarch Joseph as both a dream interpreter and a diviner (Gen. 44.4, 15) is a specific example of biblical appropriation of the ancient Mediterranean understanding of cup divination and dream interpretation as among the scientific activities of its social, spiritual, and academic elite.

XV Congress of the International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies, Munich, 2013

Kraus, Wolfgang, Michaël N. van der Meer, and Martin Meiser. *XV Congress of the International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies, Munich, 2013*. Septuagint and Cognate Studies 64. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2016.

The study of Septuagint offers essential insights in ancient Judaism and its efforts to formulate Jewish identity within a non-Jewish surrounding culture. This book includes the papers given at the XV Congress of the International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies (IOSCS), held in Munich, Germany, in 2013. The first part of this book deals with questions of textual criticism. The second part is dedicated to philology. The third part underlines the increasing importance of Torah in Jewish self-definition.

Foundations for Sociorhetorical Exploration: A Rhetoric of Religious Antiquity Reader

Robbins, Vernon K., Robert H. von Thaden Jr., and Bart B. Bruehler. *Foundations for Sociorhetorical Exploration: A Rhetoric of Religious Antiquity Reader*. Rhetoric of Religious Antiquity 4. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2016.

This volume collects essays that represent intellectual milestones that are informing sociorhetorical interpretation during the twenty-first century. The essays are arranged into five parts: (1) Topos; (2) Cultural Geography and Critical Spatiality; (3) Rhetorolects and Conceptual Blending; (4) Rhetography; and (5) Rhetorical Force.

Other Publishers' Resources and Resources in Spanish

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."

(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 [Jackie du Toit](#).

(i) JOURNAL OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE (JBL) ARCHIVE

Take note that an archive with JBL articles from volume 122.1 of 2003 through volume 130.1 of 2011 is available online to people accessing the SBL website from any ICI

country. See http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/ICI_JBLarchive.aspx. All articles in those volumes can be downloaded for free!

(j) THE SBL WEBSITE

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

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

For searching reviews of a vast number of academic publications, 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.

September 8-10, 2017

Biblical Interpretation for Caribbean Renewal

Jamaica Theological Seminary will host an interdisciplinary theology conference on its campus 14-16 West Avenue, Constant Spring, Kingston 8, Jamaica W.I. The conference is co-sponsored with the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology and the United Theological College of the West Indies.

Both Caribbean residents and others with an interest in the Caribbean are invited to propose papers on any aspect of the theme of “**Biblical Interpretation for Caribbean Renewal.**” We especially encourage papers that:

- propose priorities for biblical interpretation in the Caribbean
- address current practices of biblical interpretation in the Caribbean
- engage particular biblical texts in light of Caribbean realities

The due date for receiving proposals is **July 15, 2017.**

Further information on submitting proposals may be found in the [Call for Papers](#).

For more information please visit [the conference page](#) on the website of the Jamaica Theological Seminary.

October 25-26, 2017

The Dead Sea Scrolls Seventy Years Later. Manuscripts, Traditions, Interpretations, and Their Biblical Context

John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland.

The huge impact of the scrolls on the field of biblical studies (in its most expansive sense!) makes it imperative that we undertake today an effort to examine and review the large field of Dead Sea Scrolls studies. The seventieth anniversary of the first discoveries seems an opportune time. The conference creates a platform for scholarly exchange concerning the present state of professional research in the field of Qumran studies.

For more information:

See <http://ocs.academicon.pl/index.php/test/DSS2017>

November 18-21, 2017

2017 SBL Annual Meeting

Boston, Massachusetts

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

November 17-20, 2017

International Qur'anic Studies Association Meeting

(Held in conjunction with the SBL/AAR Annual Meetings)

Boston, Massachusetts

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

July 30 – August 3, 2018

2018 SBL International Meeting

Helsinki, Finland

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

Any topics you would like to see Bible Odyssey address? Just send a message to: 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.

With best wishes for your Bible scholarship!

Louis Jonker, SBL – International Cooperation Initiative