

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE
ICI REPORT FOR MARCH 2021

(a) THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING 2021, SAN ANTONIO

November 20-23, 2021, San Antonio, Texas, USA. **Call for Papers: Open until 3/23/2021.**

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

(b) THE SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING 2021, CANTERBURY

July 25-29 2021, University of Kent, Canterbury, United Kingdom. **Call for Papers: Closed.**

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.

(c) SBL INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AWARDS

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.

(The [Regional Scholars Awards](#) are intended to encourage North American members to participate in their region as well as receive travel assistance to the Annual Meeting.)

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 2021, 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.

Please see the [SBL Meeting International Travel Grants page](#) for information regarding eligibility, award inclusions, application procedure, and criteria for awards.

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 International Travel Awards defray transportation, hotel accommodations, and other expenses incurred for the Annual or International Meetings. Award monies will be distributed as reimbursement for expenses incurred for travel to/from the meeting and meals while attending the meeting.

- Please contact the [travel grant administrator](#) with any questions.

Deadlines

The present Travel Grants Awards cycle **is now closed** to applications.

15 April 2021: Award decisions will be announced for 2021.

The Award Panels

<u>Name</u>	<u>Panel</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Years of Term</u>
Pablo R. Andiñach	Latin America and Caribbean	2	2021-2023
Benjamin Giffone	Eastern Europe	2	2021-2023
Madipoane J. Masenya	Africa and Middle East	2	2021-2023
Dora Rudo	Africa and Middle East	2	2021-2023
Mbuwayesango			
Nelson Morales	Latin America and Caribbean	1	2019-2021
Ester Petrenko	Eastern Europe	2	2021-2023
Juan Manuel Tebes (Chair)	All Panels	2	2021-2023
Nasili Vaka'uta	Asia and Pacific	2	2021-2023
Elaine M. Wainwright	Asia and Pacific	2	2021-2023

(d) 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 (SBL English version)

<http://www.uca.edu.ar/anem> (CEHAO Spanish version)

The latest volume in ANEM is:

SCHELLENBERG, Annette, Thomas KRUGER (eds.) Sounding Sensory Profiles in The Ancient Near East. Ancient Near East Monographs – Monografías sobre el Antiguo Oriente, Volume 25. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature – Centro de Estudios del Antiguo Oriente, 2019. 422 pp. ISBN 9781628372410

An interdisciplinary essay collection from an international group of experts.

For several decades sociologists and cultural anthropologists have intensively researched the role of the senses in a variety of cultures, and their studies show how diverse cultures understand and evaluate the five or more senses differently. In this collection of eighteen essays, biblical and ancient Near Eastern scholars, as well as cultural anthropologists, apply the questions and methods from anthropological and sociological studies to Israel, Mesopotamia, and Egypt. Experts offer insights into the meaning of the senses in the ancient world, examining the classical senses (seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, tasting) as well as other senses (such as kinesthesia and the sense of balance) and sense-related issues (such as disgust, sensory imagination, and disabilities). This collection provides a stimulus and a basis for students and scholars to explore the senses in the ancient Near East.

Features:

- Exploration of the relationship between sensory experience and reasoning.
- Assessments of how theory and practice of the senses relate to each other.
- Essays examining connections between emotions and senses.

(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 of IVBS is:

Welcoming the Nations: International Sociorhetorical Explorations

Vernon K. Robbins (Editor), Roy R. Jeal (Editor)

Innovative ideas and interpretations.

This volume celebrates and reflects upon sociorhetorical interpretation of the New Testament as developed by Vernon K. Robbins in *The Tapestry of Early Christian Discourse* (Routledge) and *Exploring the Texture of Texts* (Continuum), both published in 1996. Scholars from around the world take sociorhetorical interpretation into new arenas to approach issues arising from their own contexts, including the environment, gender, and economics. Part 1 focuses on the development and emergence of sociorhetorical interpretation. Part 2 presents particular applications of sociorhetorical interpretation in Australia and Oceania. Part 3 includes essays using sociorhetorical interpretation in Africa and Asia. The essays in this book point to the richness and ever-expanding possibilities for sociorhetorical commentary and the learning that enriches all of us.

Request! from Jione Havea on behalf of the IVBS Editorial Board
jhavea@gmail.com:

For several of the authors who publish with IVBS, English is a second, third, fourth and even fifth language. This applies also to several of the board members. The review and editing processes can be painful for the authors as well as the IVBS Editor. Request: ICI asks members of SBL (e.g., retired scholars) who could volunteer to proofread, copyedit, typeset manuscripts for authors who write in English as a second language. We will gather a list of volunteers to help the work of IVBS authors and editors, with their names, contacts, areas of specialization, and the service they are willing to perform (e.g., proofread, copyedit, typeset, index). Then IVBS will request for assistance through ICI.

(f) ICI ONLINE BOOK REPOSITORY

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

Recent additions to the repository include the following volumes:

Casson, Sarah H. *Textual Signposts in the Argument of Romans: A Relevance-Theory Approach*. Early Christianity and Its Literature 25. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

The Greek word *gar* occurs 144 times in Romans and 1,041 times in the entire New Testament. However, many instances of this connective defy easy definition, and the English translation *for* is often inadequate, obscuring the clue that *gar* gives to the direction of the communicator's thought. In this ground-breaking work, Sarah H. Casson argues that *gar* offers vital guidance to the coherence of Romans. The book applies the cognitive approach of relevance theory to show how *gar* functions as an indispensable guide for tracing the significant points of Paul's argument, helping resolve questions about the coherence of sections, as well as smaller-scale exegetical problems. The work engages with key debates regarding the purpose of Romans and challenges some recent influential interpretations.

Gault, Brian P. *Body as Landscape, Love as Intoxication: Conceptual Metaphors in the Song of Songs*. Ancient Israel and Its Literature 36. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

One of the chief difficulties in interpreting the Song's lyrics is the unusual imagery used to depict the lovers' bodies. Why is the maiden's hair compared to a flock of goats (4:1), the man's cheeks likened to garden beds of spice (5:13), and the eyes of both lovers described as doves (4:1; 5:12)? While scholars speculate on the significance of these images, a systematic inquiry into the Song's body metaphors is curiously absent. Based on insights from cognitive linguistics, this study incorporates biblical and comparative data to uncover the meaning of these metaphors surveying literature in the eastern Mediterranean (and beyond) that shares a similar form (poetry) and theme (love). Gault presents an interpretation of the Song's body imagery that sheds light on the perception of beauty in Israel and its relationship to surrounding cultures.

Gillmayr-Bucher, Susanne, and Maria Häusl, eds. *Prayers and the Construction of Israelite Identity*. Ancient Israel and Its Literature 35. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

This collection of essays from an international group of scholars focuses on how biblical prayers of the Persian and early Hellenistic periods shaped identity, evoked a sense of belonging to specific groups, and added emotional significance to this affiliation. Contributors draw examples from different biblical texts, including Genesis, Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah, Psalms, Jonah, and Daniel.

Grohmann, Marianne, and Hyun Chul Paul Kim, eds. *Second Wave Intertextuality and the Hebrew Bible*. Resources for Biblical Study 93. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

Essays from a diverse group of scholars offer new approaches to biblical intertextuality that examine the relationship between the Hebrew Bible, art, literature, sociology, and postcolonialism. Eight essays in part 1 cover inner-biblical intertextuality, including studies of Genesis, Judges, and Qoheleth, among others. The eight postbiblical intertextuality essays in part 2 explore Bakhtinian and dialogical approaches, intertextuality in the Dead Sea Scrolls, canonical criticism, reception history, and #BlackLivesMatter. These essays on various genres and portions of the Hebrew Bible showcase how, why, and what intertextuality has been and presents possible potential directions for future research and application.

Janzen, David. *Trauma and the Failure of History: Kings, Lamentations, and the Destruction of Jerusalem*. Semeia Studies 94. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

David Janzen discusses the concepts of history and trauma and contrasts the ways historians and trauma survivors grapple with traumatic events, a contrast embodied in the very different ways the books of Kings and Lamentations react to the destruction of Jerusalem. Janzen's study warns that explanations in histories will tend to silence the voices of trauma survivors, and it challenges traditional approaches that sometimes portray the explanations of traumatic events in biblical literature as therapeutic for victims.

Nissinen, Martti. *Prophets and Prophecy in the Ancient Near East*. 2nd ed. Writings from the Ancient World 12. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

This volume of more than 170 documents of prophecy from the ancient Near East brings together a representative sample of written documents from Mesopotamia, the Levant, and Egypt dating to the second and first millennia BCE. Nissinen's collection provides nonspecialist readers clear translations, transliterations, and discussions of oracles reports and collections, quotations of prophetic messages in letters and literature, and texts that reference persons with prophetic titles. This second edition includes thirty-four new texts.

Puech, Émile and Mébarki, Farah. *Los manuscritos del Mar Muerto*. With the participation of George J. Brooke, Magen Broshi, Florentino García Martínez, Annette Steudel, and Eugene C. Ulrich. Translated and revised by Santiago Rostom Maderna. Paradigma Indicial 9; Serie Arqueología, Objetos y Sociedad. Buenos Aires: Editorial SB, 2009.

In 1947, in the caves around Qumran near the Dead Sea, some Bedouins discovered leather scrolls with signs that they could not decipher. Thinking of taking advantage of their booty, they showed them to an antique dealer who, considering the importance of this discovery, got in touch with some scholars: this is the beginning of the adventure of the Dead Sea manuscripts. Quickly, tens of thousands of fragments copied between the 3rd and 1st centuries AD are discovered. Among them, numerous passages of the Old Testament, biblical apocrypha and literature of

the religious group that occupied the site of Qumran: the Essenes. Now that the publication is completed, Émile Puech, one of the official editors of the manuscripts, several specialists and the journalist Farah Mébarki present their researches.

Sohn-Kronthaler, Michaela, and Ruth Albrecht, eds. *Faith and Feminism in Nineteenth-Century Religious Communities*. Bible and Women 8.2. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2018.

This latest volume in the Bible and Women series is concerned with documenting, in word and image, well-known and largely unknown women and their relationship to the Bible from the period of the late eighteenth century up to the beginning of the twentieth century. Women authors from this period are presented along with their explanations and interpretations. The essays in this collection illustrate the broad range of treatment of the Holy Scripture. Paul Chilcote, Marion Ann Taylor, Christiana de Groot, Elizabeth M. Davis, and Pamela S. Nadell offer perspectives on the Anglo-American sphere during this period. Marina Cacchi, Adriano Valerio, and Inmaculada Blasco Herranz, as well as by Alexei Klutschewski and Eva Maria Synek illuminate the areas of southern and eastern Europe. Angela Berlis, Ruth Albrecht, Doris Brodbeck, Ute Gause, and Michaela Sohn-Kronthaler examine women from the German-speaking world and their texts. Bernhard Schneider, Magda Motté, Katharina Büttner-Kirschner, and Elfriede Wiltschnigg treat the subject area of religious literature and art.

Spittler, Janet E., ed. *The Narrative Self in Early Christianity: Essays in Honor of Judith Perkins*. Writings from the Greco-Roman World Sup 15. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

This volume of twelve essays celebrates the contributions of classicist Judith Perkins to the study of early Christianity. Drawing on Perkins's insights related to apocryphal texts, representations of pain and suffering, and the creation of meaning, contributors explore the function of Christian narratives that depict pain and suffering, the motivations of the early Christians who composed these stories, and their continuing value to contemporary people. Contributors also examine how narratives work to create meaning in a religious context. These contributions address these issues from a variety of angles through a wide range of texts.

Sweeney, Marvin A. *Theology of the Hebrew Bible, volume 1: Methodological Studies*. Resources for Biblical Study 92. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

This volume presents a collection of studies on the methodology for conceiving the theological interpretation of the Hebrew Bible among Jews and Christians as well as the treatment of key issues, such as creation, the land of Israel, divine absence, and others. Contributors include Georg Fischer, SJ, David Frankel, Benjamin J. M. Johnson, Soo J. Kim, Wonil Kim, Jacqueline E. Lapsley, Julia M. O'Brien, Dalit Rom-Shiloni, Marvin A. Sweeney, and Andrea L. Weiss.

Tilford, Nicole L., ed. *Women and The Society of Biblical Literature*. Biblical Scholarship in North America 29. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

Fourteen years after eight male biblical scholars met in Philip Schaff's study to create the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis, the Society admitted its first woman, Anna Ely Rhoads, in 1894. Since Rhoads joined, the careers and lives of women in SBL have changed radically from those earliest members, whose careers were largely tied to the careers of their fathers or spouses and to institutions concerned with the education of young women. Current members now serve on editorial boards and committees; women present papers and publish books; they teach and mentor students. Leading women biblical scholars from around the world reflect on their experiences studying the Bible academically in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. This volume is a valuable tool for scholars and students interested in the lives and experiences of women in academic fields, the history of the SBL, and developments in the academic study of the Bible.

(g) PEDAGOGY AND TEACHING SUPPORT PEER BLOG FOR FRIENDS OF THE ICI

<https://internationalpedagogies.wordpress.com>

If you would also like to contribute to the Friends of the ICI International Pedagogies blog, please be in touch with Carmen Palmer at carmen.palmer@mail.utoronto.ca

(h) ICI TEACHING COLLABORATION PROGRAM

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there is an explosion of demand for online teaching and learning. For that reason, it's a perfect time to alert biblical scholars and students of the Teaching Collaboration Program of SBL's International Cooperation Initiative, established years ago to facilitate faculty cooperation, including exchange and co-supervision among scholars and institutions in different parts of the world.

ICI Scholar List: <https://www.sbl-site.org/educational/ICIScholarList.aspx>

These scholars have expressed an interest in mentoring students via the Internet, teaching online reading courses, or traveling abroad to teach [n.b., when the pandemic is over].

Individuals who need a mentor or institutions who are in need of teachers with a particular area of expertise may review the information provided to find those whose qualifications and time available match their needs. You are invited to contact any of these scholars directly. SBL is not responsible for making

arrangements between institutions or students and scholars; SBL serves only as the host of the data so that the interested parties may identify and contact each other.

To be included in the Instructor's Database, please complete the form here <https://www.sbl-site.org/educational/ICIscholar.aspx>

(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, SBL's *Review of Biblical Literature* is now a part of the new SBL Central site, where you will find the 10,000+ book reviews that RBL has published since its initial launch in 1998:

<https://www.sblcentral.org/home>

(k) JSTOR

News!: JSTOR resources during COVID-19. Last updated: 5 January, 2021

"To support our institutions during this challenging time, JSTOR and our participating publishers are making an expanded set of content freely available to our participating institutions where students have been displaced due to COVID-19".

https://about.jstor.org/covid19/?utm_source=jstor&utm_medium=display&utm_campaign=dsp_jstor_home_right_covid19_03_2020

The [JSTOR Access Initiative](#) program provides free or reduced-fee access according to a tiered system. It offers unlimited access to a collection of all archival journals and primary sources on JSTOR.

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. Then, under the tab "Membership," click on "Member Benefits" and scroll down to "Subscriptions."

(l) EVENTS

News!: Please check carefully all links because some if not all of these events may have been moved or cancelled due to the COVID-19 emergency.

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.

2021

7/25-7/29 SBL International Meeting

University of Kent, Canterbury, England

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

(m) 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>

(n) BIBLE ODYSSEY**News!:** Great online source in times of the COVID-19 emergency

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

Bible Odyssey translation project

The ICI is taking on the role of networking with other non-anglophone biblical studies learned societies around the world to translate Bible Odyssey articles into several key languages.

News!: The first batch of translations are available. These are translations to Vietnamese, made by the Vietnamese Biblical Theology Society (VBTS) <https://www.vietbib.org/>, and to Spanish, made by the Argentinean Biblical Association (ABA), <https://www.abargentina.org/>.

We soon expect more developments for Portuguese, Korean, and Mandarin Chinese. For Chinese, talks are held with the Center for Judaic and Inter-religious Studies at Shandong University. For Portuguese, talks are held with Portuguese Jesuits' Communication Office. Stay tuned for more developments!

(o) 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.

Thank you for your ongoing interest and support!

Carmen Palmer
Chair, International Cooperation Initiative of the Society of Biblical Literature