

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE ICI REPORT FOR MARCH 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*	www.hostelfish.com	1217 20th St., Denver, CO 80202	(303) 954-0962	\$43/night (dorms) to \$120/night (private)	1 mile
11th Avenue Hotel and Hostel*	www.11thavenuehotelandhostel.com	1112 Broadway, Denver, CO 80204	(303) 894-0529	\$30/night (dorms) to \$55/night (single)	1 mile
Ember Hostel*	www.emberhostels.com	857 Grant St., Denver, CO 80203	(303) 942-1633	\$50/night (dorms) to \$120/night (private)	1.5 miles
La Quinta Inn Denver Central	www.laquintadenvercentral.com	3500 Park Ave. West, Denver, CO 80216	(303) 458-1222	\$64/night	2 miles
Motel 6 Denver Central	www.motel6.com	3050 W 49th Ave., Denver CO 80221	(303) 455-888	\$77/night	5 miles
Extended Stay American Denver-Cherry Creek	www.extendedstayamerica.com	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 2018, HELSINKI

The next SBL International Meeting will take place in Helsinki, Finland, from 30 July to 3 August 2018. The Call for Papers is **closed**, Program Book is **available**.

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.

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

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 Alan Lenzi 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 volumes in ANEM are:

JUSTEL, Daniel. *Infancia y legalidad en el Próximo Oriente antiguo durante el Bronce Reciente (ca. 1500–1100 a. C.) Ancient Near East Monographs – Monografías sobre el Antiguo Oriente, Volume 20.* Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature – Centro de Estudios del Antiguo Oriente, 2018. 391 pp. ISBN 9781628372038

In this volume Daniel Justel examines several cuneiform texts from Late Bronze Age Mesopotamia and Syria (ca. 1500–1100 BCE) that focus on legal aspects of childhood, such as child adoptions, marriage, abortion, abandonment of children, and child slavery. Justel thoroughly analyzes the role of infants in this time period

and reveals the perception that adults had of children and the role that children played in processes initiated by adults.

HAMORI, Ester J. & STOKL, Jonathan. Perchance to Dream: Dream Divination in the Bible and the Ancient Near East. Ancient Near East Monographs – Monografías sobre el Antiguo Oriente, Volume 21. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature – Centro de Estudios del Antiguo Oriente, 2018. 220 pp. ISBN 9781628372076

Essays from an international group of experts.

This book examines the interpretation of dreams, which were thought to contain divine messages in the ancient Near East. For the first time in a single collection, scholars examine how dream divination was used in different ancient cultures. The essays, written by scholars specializing in different regions and bodies of literature, shed light on dream divination in the Bible, the Talmud, and in writings from Canaan, Mesopotamia, and Hittite Anatolia. Contributors include Franziska Ede, Esther J. Hamori, Koowon Kim, Christopher Metcalf, Alice Mouton, Scott B. Noegel, Andrew B. Perrin, Stephen C. Russell, Jonathan Stökl, and Haim Weiss.

Features:

- Perspectives from a variety of texts spanning the ancient eastern Mediterranean world.
- Essays that serve as an entry point for interested scholars and graduate students.
- A thorough study of dream divination understood as a discipline within ancient texts.

(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 Melanchthon](#) 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

New books added to the ICI repository!

Bodi, Daniel eds. *Abigail, Wife of David, and Other Ancient Oriental Women*. Hebrew Bible Monographs, 60. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2013.

This is the first book devoted to the biblical figure of Abigail, whose encounter with David is narrated in 1 Samuel 25. An interdisciplinary study, its seven papers combine biblical criticism, narratology, history of religions, Assyriology and the study of midrash.

Buss, Martin J. *Toward Understanding the Hebrew Canon: A Form-Critical Approach*. Hebrew Bible Monographs, 61. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2013.

Toward Understanding the Hebrew Canon: A Form-Critical Approach explores in an original and reflective way the relations between the linguistic forms, ideas and life involvements of biblical genres. The various forms of the Hebrew Bible reflect and correspond to the richly diverse life experiences of the Hebrew people, which include varied legal, cultic and erotic interactions. Divine speech is a prominent literary form in the Hebrew Bible, according to Buss's analysis. It has an emotive character, and is highly personal. Such speech establishes a series of Origin events that run from creation to the foundation of kingship; it both provides norms for life and struggles with human recalcitrance.

Ro, Johannes Unsok, editor. *From Judah to Judaea: Socio-economic Structures and Processes in the Persian Period*. Hebrew Bible Monographs, 43. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2013.

It has long been recognized that the Persian period is crucial to the history of the formation of the biblical corpora. The essays presented in this volume explore this critically important era, reconstructing the socio-economic shifts that took place as well as the religio-theological environment of the Judean community and its neighbors.

Stone, Michael E. *Uncovering Ancient Footprints: Armenian Inscriptions and the Pilgrimage Routes of the Sinai*. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2017.

From the late 1970s through 1982, Michael E. Stone conducted a number of expeditions to the Sinai peninsula, searching for ancient inscriptions. In this book Stone describes the process of his search, crowned by the discovery of the most ancient Armenian inscriptions known. Here Stone describes not only the inscriptions discovered along his journeys but also the Sinai, its past and present, its human inhabitants, its flora and fauna, and its history. Though once common, well-informed travel books to the Middle East with a broad academic interest and a specific focus have become rare. Stone's diary of his expeditions in the Sinai fills this gap with vivid descriptions, poetry, and illustrations.

Daneri Rodrigo, Alicia, ed. *Relaciones de intercambio entre Egipto y el Mediterráneo Oriental (IV-I Milenio A.C.)* Buenos Aires: Biblos, 2001.

The articles that constitute this book are part of the results of a research project entitled “Trade relations between the Egyptian Delta and the Eastern Mediterranean during the Pharaonic period,” carried out in the Instituto de Historia Antigua Oriental of the Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Universidad de Buenos Aires between 1995 and 2000. The objective was to determine the importance of the exchange of goods as an important factor in the formation and consolidation of the Egyptian State and in the subsequent stages of its development. Articles by A. Daneri Rodrigo, M. Campagno, R. Flammini, G. Gestoso, and C. Crespo.

Daneri Rodrigo, Alicia & Campagno, Marcelo, eds. *Antiguos Contactos: Relaciones de Intercambio entre Egipto y sus periferias*. Buenos Aires:

Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Universidad de Buenos Aires, 2004.

Over millennia, the inhabitants of the Nile Valley opened a multiplicity of contacts with the surrounding regions. On certain occasions, foreigners reached Egypt. In others, the Egyptians penetrated into the outside world. And, on both occasions, those contacts involved exchanges in the broadest sense of the word. Indeed, those exchanges involved, on the one hand, the circulation of material goods, especially prestige goods. On the other, they could also include exchanges of ideas, technologies, and images of the other. The networks of exchange comprised the obtaining of goods, but also at the same time, of experiences that confirm or modify the very condition of those who participate in them. Articles by M. Campagno, C. Crespo, A. Daneri Rodrigo, R. Flammini, E. Pfoh and J. M. Tebes.

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.

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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. 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.

6/12-6/15 The Future of Syriac Studies and the Legacy of Sebastian P. Brock

On the occasion of the 80th birthday of Sebastian P. Brock, Sankt Ignatios Theological Academy & Stockholm School of Theology, Sweden, is hosting a major conference on “The Future of Syriac Studies.” Sebastian Brock has agreed to be present and participate and it is expected that this will be a significant and memorable event for Syriac studies. Several senior scholars have agreed to present plenary papers. Papers are now being invited and solicited for a limited number of spaces in general sessions. Papers should be 20-25 minutes in order to give time for discussion, and may concern any topic in the broad range of Syriac studies.

Please keep in mind that the theme of this conference aims to focus upon new directions and methodologies, as well as to forge new resolutions to traditional issues. The deadline for submittal of a title and abstract (ca. 200 words) is 1 February 2018. The conference committee will notify those whose papers have been accepted by 1 March 2018. During the concluding session, Sebastian Brock will be awarded the Order of Sankt Ignatios for his long and valued contribution to all matters Syriac, along with his mentorship to so many scholars. In addition to the plenary and general sessions, events of Syriac song and poetry are being planned, as well as a round-table discussion of the future of Syriac studies.

Housing and meals will be available for all participants at the Sigtuna Conference Centre or in the close vicinity. Sigtuna is one of the oldest settlements in Sweden and is located only 20 minutes from the Stockholm Arlanda Airport.

A registration form will be available shortly at www.sanktignatios.com

7/25-7/27 Colloquium Biblicum Lovaniense LXVII, 2018 (President: Pierre Van Hecke, Leuven)

For many centuries, the Song of Songs was by far one of the most commented biblical books, especially taking into consideration its limited length. After a period

of diminished interest, recent scholarship is rediscovering the book. The present colloquium aims at bringing together the leading voices in contemporary Songs scholarship and by fostering the dialogue between them, at inaugurating a new phase in the research. Firstly, the colloquium will deal with the redaction history and the dating of the book. A second important discussion concerns the structure or unity of the book: is the scroll a collection of thematically loosely connected poems, or does it display in its final redactional form a unity? Given their uniqueness in the biblical corpus, scholarship has paid quite some attention to possible parallels of the Songs in the surrounding cultures as well as to the early Christian reception of Song of Songs. The latter developments are not unrelated with the reopening of the hermeneutically important question whether the book was composed with an allegorical reading in mind or not. Finally, the Song of Songs continues to fascinate the readers by its highly poetic and at times difficult language. A renewed attention for the book's metaphorical richness will therefore be an important aspect of this colloquium.

CALL FOR SHORT PAPERS: Short paper proposals (including name, institutional affiliation, title and abstract of 200-300 words) should be sent to: Pierre Van Hecke, President CBL 2018, pierre.vanhecke@kuleuven.be no later than March 1, 2018.

https://theo.kuleuven.be/en/research/centres/centr_collbibl

7/16-7/20 Society of Asian Biblical Studies Conference

Focusing on the theme: Bible and Empire in Asia: Past and Present; SABS will meet at the STFT Widya Sasana, Malang, East Java, Indonesia and accommodation will be at the Wisma St Maria Magdalena Postel, Malang.

[More information](#) or email [Tat Siong Benny Liew](#)

7/30-8/3 SBL International Meeting

Will be held in Helsinki, Finland in conjunction with EABS.

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

7/30-8/3 European Association of Biblical Studies

Helsinki, 30 July–3 August: joint conference with ISBL

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

8/6 Biblical Scholarship in Secular and Post-Secular Societies

The Department of Theology and the Center for Faith and Human Flourishing at LCC International University invite you to participate in a one-day conference in Klaipeda, Lithuania, on August 6, 2018. A special welcome is extended to colleagues attending the EABS/ISBL meetings in Helsinki.

[More information](#)

9/25-9/27 CFP: Religious and Philosophical Conversion in the Ancient Mediterranean Traditions

The Conference on Religious and Philosophical Conversion explore will explore conversion or converting experience in the environment of the ancient Hellenistic world(s) with attention to early Judaism and early Christianity/the New Testament. Presentations will undertake both historical and philological reconstructions relying on source material and utilizing interdisciplinary approaches.

<https://www.etf.uni-bonn.de/de/ev-theol/institute/corpc/>

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>

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

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

(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. 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

(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

—

Juan Manuel Tebes

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