

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE ICI REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2015

(a) THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING 2015, ATLANTA

The SBL Annual Meeting in Atlanta is something of the past! Thank you to the SBL staff who worked hard to make it a great success and enjoyable experience!

A very successful ICI Forum discussion was also held in Atlanta. Thank you for all who attended and joined the discussion. The following is a summary of the main points that were discussed or suggestions that were made:

- Four new volumes were published in ANEM/MACO during 2015, and one new volume in IVBS.
- Discussions are held with the SBL management and council on the ICI book repository in order to find strategies that will involve more publishers in the programme. ICI is also continuing its efforts to get Spanish and French books into the repository. Further attention is also given to make the repository more searchable and user-friendly.
- Due to staff changes in SBL no webcasting of Annual Meeting sessions was done in 2015. Consideration is given to make video recordings of more sessions (additional to the presidential address) to put on the ICI website.
- It was recommended to conference participants from ICI countries to use accommodation booking engines, such as booking.com and others, to book more affordable accommodation for meetings.
- ICI will be integrated more formally into the SBL organizational structure in future, with ICI Executive members serving three year terms (renewable for another three years) similar to the committee structure. It was, however, indicated to the SBL management that ICI would like to continue its role of facilitating “on the margins” between the traditional (mainly northern) and non-traditional (mainly from the global south) scholarly worlds.

(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** is open now and will remain open until 3 February 2016. See the call at:

http://sbl-site.org/meetings/Congresses_CallForPapers.aspx?MeetingId=28

Another ICI panel discussion will be held there, and more information will be communicated in due time. 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) 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.

(d) 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 volume in ANEM/MACO is:

Political Memory in and after the Persian Empire

Edited by Jason M. Silverman and Caroline Waerzeggers

Various disciplines that deal with Achaemenid rule offer starkly different assessments of Persian kingship. While Assyriologists treat Cyrus's heirs as legitimate successors of the Babylonian kings, biblical scholars often speak of a "kingless era" in which the priesthood took over the function of the Davidic monarch. Egyptologists see their land as uniquely independently minded despite conquests, while Hellenistic scholarship tends to evaluate the interface between Hellenism and native traditions without reference to the previous two centuries of Persian rule. This volume brings together in dialogue a broad array of scholars with the goal of seeking a broader context for assessing Persian kingship through the anthropological concept of political memory.

Features

- Articles present the results of an international symposium held in Leiden, the Netherlands, 2014
- More than twenty illustrations
- Seventeen articles, an introduction, and a summary response

To download the book for free, paste the following link into your browser: (will be available soon)

(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 in IVBS is:

Migration and Diaspora: Exegetical Voices of Women in Northeast Asian Countries

Edited by Hisako Kinukawa

The third meeting of the Society of Asian Biblical Studies was held at Sabah in June 2012, addressing the theme of Migration and Diaspora. This book contains five essays written by women from Northeast Asian countries for this occasion. Three are on Hebrew Scriptures and two are on the Christian Testament. All writers used a cultural analysis of their own social locations, and literary, historical, and postcolonial criticism as their methods of reading the texts, even though they may not explicitly mention which criticisms are used.

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

<http://ivbs.sbl-site.org/uploads/IVBS%20PAPERS1.pdf>

(f) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS – NEW BOOKS ADDED

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

Communities in Dispute: Current Scholarship on the Johannine Epistles

Culpepper, R. Alan and Paul N. Anderson, eds. *Communities in Dispute: Current Scholarship on the Johannine Epistles*. Early Christianity and Its Literature 13. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2014.

Theology Symposium on the Johannine Epistles (2010). Contributions on the relationship between the Gospel of John and the Letters of John, Johannine theology and ethics, the concept of the Antichrist, and the role of the elder round out the collection. This is a must-have book for libraries and New Testament scholars.

Features:

- Introductory essay places the collection in context
- Thirteen additional essays
- Articles engage the work of Raymond Brown and J. Louis Martyn

Latino/a Biblical Hermeneutics: Problematics, Objectives, Strategies

Lozada, Jr. Francisco and Fernando F. Segovia, eds. *Latino/a Biblical Hermeneutics: Problematics, Objectives, Strategies*. Semeia Studies 68. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2014.

In this collection of essays, contributors seek to analyze the vision of the critical task espoused by Latino/a critics. The project explores how such critics approach their vocation as critics in the light of their identity as members of the Latino/a experience and reality. A variety of critics—representing a broad spectrum of the Latino/a American formation, along various axes of identity—address the question in whatever way they deem appropriate: What does it mean to be a Latino/a critic?

Features:

- Essays from sixteen scholars
- Articles bring together the fields of biblical studies and racial-ethnic studies
- Conclusion addresses directions for future research

The Studia Philonica Annual: Studies in Hellenistic Judaism Volume XXVI

Runia, David T. and Gregory E. Sterling, eds. *The Studia Philonica Annual: Studies in Hellenistic Judaism, Volume XXVI*. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2014.

The Studia Philonica Annual is a scholarly journal devoted to the study of Hellenistic Judaism, particularly the writings and thought of the Hellenistic-Jewish writer Philo of Alexandria (circa 15 BCE to circa 50 CE).

Features:

- Articles on aspects of Hellenistic Judaism written by experts in the field
- Bibliography
- Book reviews

(g) 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](#).

(h) 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 now 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!

(i) CONVENIENT SEARCH TOOLS ON 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:

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

(j) 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.

December 20-23, 2015**Philosophical Investigation of the Hebrew Scriptures, Talmud and Midrash**

The conference will take place in Jerusalem and will explore "The Questions of God's Perfection." The conference will explore whether understanding God as perfect being is appropriate as a basis for Jewish theology and for religious belief more generally, bringing together perspectives on this question from philosophers, theologians, scholars of Bible and scholars of rabbinic literature. Invited participants will be Oliver Crisp, James Diamond, Jerome Gellman, Lenn E. Goodman, Moshe Halbertal, Yoram Hazony, Brian Leftow, Berel Dov Lerner Alan Mittleman, David Shatz, Eleonore Stump, Alan Torrance, Shmuel Trigano, and Howard Wettstein. Scholars wishing to present papers at the conference should submit abstracts of 500-1,000 words together with a current CV to meiravj@herzlinsitute.org

<http://bibleandphilosophy.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/2015-conference-announcement-v-4.pdf>

July 3-7, 2016

2016 SBL International Meeting

Seoul, South Korea

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

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 open (until 31 March 2016) at <http://iosot2016.co.za/participate/call-for-papers/>. Register there with your e-mail address to receive automatic updates and the Call for Papers. Questions contact: LCJ@sun.ac.za

November 19-22, 2016

2016 SBL Annual Meeting

San Antonio, Texas

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

(k) 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!

(l) 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