

**SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE
ICI REPORT FOR APRIL 2023**

(a) THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING 2023, San Antonio, Texas

November 18-21, 2023 Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio, Texas, USA. **Call for Papers is closed.** Stay tuned for registration.

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

(b) THE SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING 2023, PRETORIA

July 3-7, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa. **Call for papers is now closed.** Stay tuned for registration.

<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 launched the inaugural global, virtual meeting, March 27-31, 2023!

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

The ICI held a networking session during the global virtual meeting. Please see the link for a blog summary of this invigorating session!:

<https://internationalpedagogies.wordpress.com/blog-2/>

(d) 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 2023, each ITAP will administer two, \$1,500 awards in each region. 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.

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

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.

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	2	2022-2024
Ester Petrenko	Eastern Europe	2	2021-2023
Carmen Palmer (Chair)	All Panels	1	2021-2023
Juan Manuel Tebes	All Panels	2	2021-2023
Nasili Vaka'uta	Asia and Pacific	2	2021-2023
Elaine M. Wainwright	Asia and Pacific	2	2021-2023

(e) PUBLICATION IN ANCIENT NEAR EAST MONOGRAPHS (ANEM)

[http://www.uca.edu.ar/index.php/site/index/es/uca/departamento-de-historia/publicaciones/monografias-sobre-el-antiguo-cercano-oriente/](http://www.uca.edu.ar/index.php/site/index/es/uca/departamento-de-historia/publicaciones/monografias-sobre-el-antiguo-cercano-orient/)

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)

New! in ANEM (print versions forthcoming):

McClellan, Daniel O. *YHWH's Divine Images: A Cognitive Approach*.

Ancient Near East Monographs – Monografías sobre el Antiguo Oriente, Volume 29. Atlanta: SBL Press – Centro de Estudios del Antiguo Oriente, 2022.

(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 edited by 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 the general editor, [Jione Havea](#).

Here is the latest volume of IVBS:

Terror in the Bible: Rhetoric, Gender, and Violence

Edited by Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon and Robyn J. Whitaker.

IVBS 14. Atlanta: SBL, 2021.

This volume of essays, inspired by Phyllis Tribble's *Texts of Terror*, examines the terrorizing potential of biblical texts as they intersect with issues of context, gender, caste, violence, and colonization/imperialism. Contributors writing from Australia, India, New Zealand, Tonga, South Africa, and the US interrogate biblical texts from the Hebrew Bible and New Testament to bring to the fore their terrorizing and terrifying potential and their violent and violating impact particularly on women and minoritized men as they intersect with cultures in their home contexts. Essays engage Tribble by paying attention to some of the same biblical texts through new questions, extending the repertoire of Tribble's terrorizing texts to include those not always seen as texts of terror and stretching and extending her interpretations into new contexts. Contributors include Karen Eller, Rachelle Gilmour, Laura Griffin, Jione Havea, Dorothy A. Lee, Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon, Brent Pelton, Angela Sawyer, David Tombs, Gerald O. West, Robyn J. Whitaker, and Adela Yarbro Collins. A foreword by Phyllis Tribble reflects on what motivated her work and how this volume pushes the academy and the church to deal with the violence inherent in some biblical texts.

(g)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

*****The ICI Online Book Repository is now available to biblical scholars in Puerto Rico!*****

<https://www.sbl-site.org/publications/onlinebooks.aspx>

Check out these newly added volumes!

Ilan, Tal, Lorena Miralles-Marcía, and Ronit Nikolsky, eds. *Rabbinic Literature*. BW 4.1. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2022.

This volume in the Bible and Women series is devoted to rabbinic literature from late Jewish antiquity to the early Middle Ages. Fifteen contributions feature different approaches to the question of biblical women and gender and encompass a wide variety of rabbinic corpora, including the Mishnah-Tosefta, halakhic and aggadic midrashim, Talmud, and late midrash. Some essays analyze biblical law and gender relations as they are reflected in the rabbinic sages' argumentation, while others examine either the rabbinic portrayal of a certain woman or a group of women or the role of biblical women in a specific rabbinic context. Contributors include Judith R. Baskin, Yuval Blankovsky, Alexander A. Dubrau, Cecilia Haendler, Tal Ilan, Gail Labovitz, Moshe Lavee, Lorena Miralles-Maciá, Ronit Nikolsky, Susanne Plietzsch, Natalie C. Polzer, Olga I. Ruiz-Morell, Devora Steinmetz, Christiane Hannah Tzuberi, and Dvora Weisberg.

Lafitaga, Elekosi F. *Apocalyptic Sheep and Goats in Matthew and 1 Enoch*. ESEC 24. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2022.

Matthew's eschatological imageries of judgment are often identified as apocalyptic and referred to as Matthew's apocalyptic discourses. In this volume Elekosi F. Lafitaga reexamines Matthew's vision of the sheep and goats in the judgment of the nations, which are often interpreted as metaphors for the saved and the condemned. Lafitaga views these images in the wider context of the rhetoric of apocalyptic communication stretching back to Matthew 3. This broader context reveals that the vision of Matthew 25 serves to exhort Israel in the here and now according to the torah, with salvation for Israel involving an indispensable responsibility to love and serve humanity. Central to Lafitaga's analysis is the highly probable scenario that the material in Matthew is dependent on the Book of Dreams (1 Enoch 83–90).

Ross, William A. *Postclassical Greek and Septuagint Lexicography*. SCS 75. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2022.

A long-standing tradition within biblical scholarship sets the Greek text of the Septuagint constantly in relationship with its supposed Hebrew or Aramaic Vorlage, examining the two together in terms of their grammatical alignment as a standard. Yet another tradition frames the discussion in different terms, preferring instead to address the Septuagint first of all in light of its contemporary Greek linguistic environment and only then attempting to describe its language and style as a text. It is this latter approach that William A. Ross employs in this textually based study of the Greek versions of Judges, a so-called double text in the textual history of the Septuagint. The results of his study offer a window into the Old Greek translation and its later revision, two distinct stages of Greek Judges with numerous instances of divergent vocabulary choices that reflect deliberateness in both the original selection and the subsequent change within the textual development of the book. Ross's study illustrates the practicalities and payoff of a Greek-oriented lexicographical method that situates the language of the Septuagint squarely within its contemporary historical and linguistic context.

(h) 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](#).

(i) ICI TEACHING COLLABORATION PROGRAM

The Teaching Collaboration Program of SBL's International Cooperation Initiative was established a number of 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.

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>

(j) 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!

(k) 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>

(l) JSTOR

News!: **"JSTOR and participating publishers are making an expanded set of content freely available to help during the ongoing crisis."**

Support for participating institutions

Access to unlicensed collections for participating academic institutions that currently license some, but not all, JSTOR Archive and Primary Source collections through June 30, 2023.” **(Extended by a year!)**

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.”

(m) UPCOMING 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 Eric McDonnell at eric.mcdonnell@sbl-site.org.

(Welcome Eric to the ICI collaboration!)

4/05-4/07 2023: Oceania Biblical Studies Association (OBSA) Conference

Theme: Bible, Crises, Healing

Host: Kanana Fou Theological Seminary (American Samoa)

[More information](#)

4/13-4/15 2023: Religion in Modern Education: Conflict, Policy, and Practice

This conference, hosted at the Australian National University in Canberra, Australia, invites scholars to consider the immediate and enduring impacts that the value, consideration, accessibility, and format of religious education may have on religious practices, on public spheres of activity, and on the relationship between religion and society.

[More information](#)

6/21-6/23 2023: Interpreting Sacred Texts in Contemporary Africa: Concepts, Methods and Approaches

This international conference, to be held from June 29 to July 1, 2022 is being organised by the Department for the Study of Religions, University of Ghana, Legon and the Département d'écriture sainte of the Institut de Théologie de la Compagnie de Jesus, (ITCJ), Abidjan. Papers will interpret sacred texts within changing contexts in Africa. sacredtexts@ug.edu.gh.

7/10-7/13 2023

2023 European Association of Biblical Studies Annual Conference

The 2023 EABS Annual Conference will be held in Syracuse, Sicily.

[More information](#)

8/30-9/01 2023 Oceania Biblical Studies Association (OBSA) Conference

Theme: Bible, Climate, and Health

Host: Malua Theological Seminary (Samoa)

[More information](#)

12/7-12/8 2023

Perceptions of Writing in Papyri: Crossing Close and Distant Readings Online Conference

This online conference will analyze how digital culture has changed the perceptions of writing styles in papyri. Studies conducted by modern scholars have always been the main way of evaluating papyri, determining their dates and content. We will evaluate the current ways scholars view the

aesthetics of papyri in a world where close and distant readings are intersecting more every day. Please submit paper proposals of ca. 300 words by **April 30, 2023**, to claire.clivaz@sib.swiss and i.marthot-santaniello@unibas.ch.

(n) 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>

(o) BIBLE ODYSSEY

Great online source in times of the COVID-19 ongoing pandemic

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

Check out these recent entries from Bible Odyssey:

[Israel as a Person, People, and Place](#)

[Milk and Honey \(Exodus 3:8\)](#)

[Sacrifice in the Ancient Mediterranean World](#)

[The Legacy of the Bible in Justifying Slavery](#)

[Zipporah](#)

[Sign up for the Bible Odyssey Newsletter](#)

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.

There 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!

(p) PLEASE PASS ON THE INFORMATION

If someone you know anyone has been asking for a quick introduction to the work of the ICI Committee, feel free to direct them to this brief SBL Member Spotlight interview: <https://www.sbl-site.org/membership/MemberSpotlight.aspx>

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 Committee of the Society of Biblical Literature