

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE
ICI REPORT FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2020

(a) THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING 2020, BOSTON

The next SBL Annual Meeting will take place in Boston, Massachusetts, from 21 to 24 November 2020. The Call for Papers is **open**, Registering is not open yet. Program Book is not available yet.

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

(b) THE SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING 2020, ADELAIDE

The next SBL International Meeting will take place in the University of Adelaide, Adelaide, Australia, from 5 to 9 July 2020. The Call for Papers is **closed**, Registering is not open yet. Program Book is not available yet.

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 committee is currently reviewing the grant applications. News about the winners will be given on **15 April 2020**.

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 2020, 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.

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.

Who is eligible?

- Current SBL members outside North America who have not attended an Annual or International Meeting within the last five years.
- Applicants must have completed at least a Masters degree or be enrolled in a Ph.D. program.

- Preference will be given to women, people of historically underrepresented ethnicities, and members from **ICI-qualifying countries**.
- Persons who have previously received a SBL Travel Award are not eligible.

What does a travel award include?

- Reimbursement of travel, visa application fees, meal and Annual or International Meeting expenses up to the amount of the award.
- Lodging (one room, single or shared) for four nights.
- Complimentary Annual or International Meeting registration.

What is the procedure for a grant application?

- Submit your Travel Award Application **here** and your letter of recommendation to the **travel grant administrator** no later than 15 February 2020. The online application is also available via the link below.
- The application form must include the following information:
 - Participant's contributions to the scholarly conversation as a result of Annual or International Meeting participation
 - Participants plans to advance quality of biblical scholarship as a result of International Travel Award
 - Financial need
 - Explanation on how grant will facilitate collaboration between scholars of different countries and areas of expertise
 - Opportunities created for scholar as a result of Travel award
- A letter of recommendation from a person who knows the applicant's academic work and can confirm his or her interest in SBL (i.e. advisor, mentor, research supervisor). Email this letter to the **travel award administrator**.

Criteria for awards

The more criteria met, the stronger the application.

- New contribution: How will this person bring something new into the scholarly conversation at the Annual or International Meeting?
- Quality of contribution: How will this person advance the academic quality of biblical scholarship?
- Financial need: Is there sufficient need? Are there other sources of funding available?

- Partnership with other scholars: How will the grant facilitate broad collaboration between scholars of different countries and different areas of expertise?
- Opportunity to participate: Has this person participated in scholarly conferences previously?

Deadlines

1 December 2019: International Travel Award application opens.

15 February 2020: Deadline – Application form and recommendation letter.

15 April 2020: Award decisions will be announced.

Travel Award Application Form

<https://www.sbl-site.org/membership/AMtravelgrant.aspx>

(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 in IVBS is:

Byung-Mu Ahn, Hanna in (Translator), Wongi Park (Translator). Stories of Minjung Theology: The Theological Journey of Ahn Byung-Mu in His Own Words Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

Trace the theological awakening of one of the foremost Asian theologians.

This autobiography combines the personal story of theologian Ahn Byung-Mu with the history of the Korean nation in light of the dramatic social, political, and cultural upheavals of the 1970s. This book traces Ahn's journey from his childhood in Korea under Japanese colonial rule, to his study in Germany, his return to Korea, through his realization of the unsuitability of German scholarship to his own Korean context. It records the history of minjung (the people's) theology that emerged in Asia, Ahn's involvement in it, and his interpretations of major Christian doctrines such as God, sin, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit from the minjung perspective.

Features:

- The first English translation of Ahn's autobiography, considered one of the best works in minjung theology and contextual biblical interpretation.
- Conversations between Ahn and young Korean theologians.
- An introductory essay that situates Ahn's work in its context and discusses the place and purpose of minjung hermeneutics in a vastly different Korea.

NEW!

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

NEW BOOKS!

Austin, Benjamin M. *Plant Metaphors in the Old Greek of Isaiah*. Septuagint and Cognate Studies 69. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

In this study Benjamin M. Austin analyzes all the plant metaphors in Isaiah and classifies them according to the metaphor translation techniques used by the Septuagint translator. Austin illustrates how the translator took the context of each metaphor into account and demonstrates how the natural features of the plants under discussion at times influence their translation. He argues that the translator tried to render metaphors vividly and with clarity, sometimes adjusting them to match the experience of his audience living in Egypt. Austin examines metaphors by their vehicles, so that the translation of similar metaphors can be compared.

Whiting, Colin M. *Documents from the Luciferians: In Defense of the Nicene Creed*. Writings from the Greco-Roman World 43. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

This volume includes English translations of several documents concerning the Luciferians, a group of fourth-century Christians whose name derives from the bishop Lucifer of Cagliari. Documents include a confession of faith written for Emperor Theodosius I and a theological treatise written for his wife by Luciferian clergyman Faustinus, the first English translation of a Luciferian petition to

Theodosius that focuses on the persecution the community has suffered, Theodosius's imperial law in response to the Luciferians, two letters composed by Luciferians that purport to represent correspondence from the bishop Athanasius of Alexandria to Lucifer, and the priest Jerome's *Dialogus adversus Luciferianos*. These texts highlight connections between developments in Christian theology and local Christian communities in the course of the fourth century.

(g) JSTOR

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) SBL WOMEN'S ARCHIVE PROJECT NEW!

The number of women and the types of roles they hold in the SBL have been increasing since Anna Ely Rhoads joined in 1894. Women push methodological boundaries, teach and mentor students, and support guild initiatives by serving as editors, program chairs, committee members, and officers. To honor women's accomplishments and to consider the unique challenges they continue to face, the Society is developing a digital archive to preserve the stories of women in the guild. We invite women members to share their personal stories through video, audio, pictorial, and written reflections. Submissions will become part of the official SBL archival records. It is our hope that this will become the first of many archive projects that will preserve the unique experience of members from a guild that continues to grow, change, and become more inclusive.

For more reflection guidelines and submission instructions, see the SBL Women's Archive [page](#). Check out the [FAQ](#) for additional information about this project and the archive.

(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, see the website of Review of Biblical Literature (RBL) at (you have to log in with your membership number):

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

(l) 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.

2020**3/31 Deadline: Call for Papers****Colloquium Biblicum Lovaniense LXIX, 2020 (President: Jan Willem van Henten, University of Amsterdam)**

The reception history of the four Books of the Maccabees is as rich as it is diverse. The relevance of these books is apparent from the multi-faceted ongoing recent scholarship, which can be characterized by the incorporation of literary approaches, a renewed interest in historical issues and the contemporary political and cultural contexts of the books, a more systematic discussion of religious and theological themes and a more intense study of the reception history. Nevertheless, we are still in need of elaborate analyses of the literary aspects of the Maccabean Books. The recent publication of a decree during Seleucus IV's rule calls for a re-assessment of 1 and 2 Maccabees as historical sources as well as renewed contextualizations of the books as historical documents. How do the Maccabean books articulate the interactions of religion with politics and culture? What could

be the theological relevance of 1-4 Maccabees? Finally, the reception history of the Maccabean Books also deserves further study.

CALL FOR SHORT PAPERS: Short paper proposals (including name, institutional affiliation, postal address, e-mail address, title and abstract of ca. 200 words) should be sent to: Jan Willem van Henten, President CBL 2020, j.w.vanhenten@uva.nl no later than 31 March 2020.

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

4/30 CFP Deadline: Women and Gender in the Bible and the Biblical World

“Open Theology” (<http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/opth>) invites submissions for the topical issue "Women and Gender in the Bible and the Biblical World", prepared in collaboration with the conference "Women and Gender in the Bible and the Ancient World", held by University of Glasgow.

<https://www.degruyter.com/page/1972>

7/5-7/9 2020 SBL International Meeting

University of Adelaide, Adelaide Australia

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

7/22- 7/24 Colloquium Biblicum Lovaniense LXIX, 2020

The Colloquium Biblicum Lovaniense is an annual international conference on Biblical Studies jointly organised by the theological faculties of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven and the Université Catholique de Louvain. The meetings take place in the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies at the KU Leuven and are alternately dedicated to a topic in Old and in New Testament Studies. The Colloquium offers a forum and meeting place for research and scholarly discussion in the field of Biblical Studies. As a rule the annual conference focuses on a biblical book or a collection of writings, but it also addresses thematic subjects.

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

9/7-9/11 International Summer School on Biblical Hebrew Poetry

At KU Leuven. Largely considered one of the poetic gems of biblical literature, the Song of Songs (henceforth, Song) was commented upon more than any other biblical book, especially in the Middle Ages. Not only has the Song been one of the most inspiring biblical poems for both Jewish and Christian theologians, it has also fired up the souls and creativity of countless writers and artists throughout the centuries. This Summer School intends to provide its participants with a thorough investigation of the Song of Song's poetry and its reception in Judaism, from the Rabbinic period to the Middle Ages. International experts in the field will offer lectures and workshops.

Deadline for registration : May 31 2020

https://theo.kuleuven.be/en/research/research_units/ru_bible/biblical-hebrew-poetry

10/21-10/22 From the Books of Enoch to Genesis Apocryphon: The Aramaic Manuscripts of 1 Enoch and Related Apocalyptic Traditions

The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. The conference offers a platform for all scholars to reflect on, and deepen the understanding of, the linguistic, philological, literary, and exegetical aspects of Enochic apocalyptic literature whose most ancient layer of tradition is readily available in its Aramaic manuscripts from Qumran.

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

(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

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

NEWS! 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: so far Spanish, Portuguese, Korean, and Mandarin Chinese. There is already an agreement for **Vietnamese**, with the Vietnamese Biblical Theology Society (VBTS), and for **Spanish**, with the Argentinean Biblical Association (ABA). 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.

Thanks a lot for your interest and spread the word!

Juan

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Juan Manuel Tebes
Director, Centro de Estudios de Historia del Antiguo Oriente
Co-Editor, Ancient Near East Monographs

Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina
Researcher, CONICET - National Research Council of Argentina
Chair, International Cooperation Initiative & Chair, Travel Grants Committee
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