

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

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

November 18-21, 2023 Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio, Texas, USA. **Registration is now open!** **Call for Papers is closed.**

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

(b) THE SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING 2023, PRETORIA

July 3-7, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa. **Registration is now open!**
Call for papers is now closed.

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

Be sure to join the ICI session! Discussion topics are listed here:

**The ICI into the Next Era: Past, Present, and Future-Looking
Dialogue in an African Context (5-21a)**

7/05/2023 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM Room: 2-65 - Graduate Centre

Jaqueline du Toit, University of the Free State, Presiding

***Introduction to ICI** (*Louis Jonker, Universiteit van Stellenbosch - University of Stellenbosch*) (30 min)

***Open Discussion** (*Michael Mensah, University of Ghana*) (60 min)

1. Engaging the colonial divide: anglophone, francophone and lusophone Africa
2. Engaging faith-based biblical scholarship in contemporary Africa
3. Scaling the financial hurdle to biblical scholarship in Africa: grants, access, etc.
4. Furthering intra-continental conversations on the Bible
5. Interdisciplinarity in biblical studies on the continent
6. Gender and diversity in biblical scholarship and the ICI

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 an annual global, virtual meeting, held in the spring. Stay tuned for details of the next meeting in 2024!

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

Name	Panel	Term	Years of Term
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:

Wilson-Wright, Aren M. *Jeremiah's Egypt: Prophetic Reflections on the Saite Period*. Ancient Near East Monographs – Monografías sobre el Antiguo Oriente, Volume 30. Atlanta: SBL Press – Centro de Estudios del Antiguo Oriente, 2023.

Jeremiah's Egypt: Prophetic Reflections on the Saite Period is the first book-length work to highlight the importance of Egypt for understanding the historical context and literary development of the book of Jeremiah.

Based on a comprehensive reconstruction of Egyptian-Judahite contact in the late seventh and early sixth centuries BCE, Aren M. Wilson-Wright shows that the numerous references to Egypt in the book of Jeremiah are highly personal reactions to the injustices perpetrated by the Egyptian regime and its self-serving Judahite collaborators, some of which such as Jeremiah 25 see Babylon as a means of escaping Egyptian domination. Her analysis reveals that the key choice animating the book of Jeremiah is not Judahite autonomy versus Babylonian domination but rather Egyptian domination versus Babylonian domination. Additionally, Wilson-Wright advances several innovative redactional and text-critical proposals related to the book of Jeremiah and suggests historical anchor points for future redactional and linguistic approaches to dating the text.

(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](#).

New! in IVBS:

Boloje, Blessing Onoriode. *Reading Micah in Nigeria: Ethics, Wealth, and Corruption*. IVBS 15. Atlanta: SBL, 2023.

In *Reading Micah in Nigeria: Ethics, Wealth, and Corruption*, Blessing Onoriode Boloje explores the sociopolitical, economic, and religious circumstances behind Micah's prophetic oracles. Boloje shows how the rhetoric of the book of Micah challenges the behavior and attitudes of leaders and people as they relate to issues of greed, distorted theological justification and condemnation of social evils, leadership and ritual failure, cheating and violence, and societal disintegration on account of gross corruption. Moving beyond Micah's ancient context, Boloje applies the oracles to contemporary socioeconomic and religious issues of faith and life in Nigerian society. By reinterpreting the theological and ethical traditions of Micah, Boloje creatively links the past with the present so that the Word of God becomes relevant for today.

(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 new volumes added this month!

Given, Mark D., ed. *Paul Unbound: Other Perspectives on the Apostle*. 2nd ed. ESEC 25. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2022.

The essays in this second edition of *Paul Unbound: Other Perspectives on the Apostle* provide introductions to Paul's relationship to and views on the Roman Empire, first-century economic stratification, his opponents,

ethnicity, the law, Judaism, women, and Greco-Roman rhetoric. Contributors Warren Carter, Charles H. Cosgrove, A. Andrew Das, Steven J. Friesen, Mark D. Given, Deborah Krause, Mark D. Nanos, and Jerry L. Sumney have added addendums to their original essays and updated the bibliography to take into account scholarship produced in the decade since the publication of the first edition. The collection provides essential background and sets out new directions for study useful to students of the New Testament and Paul's letters.

Lehtipuu, Outi, and Silke Petersen, eds. *Ancient Christian Apocrypha: Marginalized Texts in Early Christianity*. BW 3.2. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2022.

This volume in the Bible and Women series examines ancient noncanonical Christian texts for what they reveal about women, their engagement with Scripture, and attitudes toward them in texts dating to the second to eighth century. Three sections include once-forgotten texts rediscovered in locations such as Nag Hammadi, those that have been in continuous use through the centuries, and works written by women that are traditionally excluded from discussions of noncanonical texts.

Elayi, Josette. *Tiglath-Pileser III, Founder of the Assyrian Empire*. ABS 31. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2022.

Most modern historians consider Tiglath-pileser III, king of Assyria, to be the true founder of the Assyrian Empire. In Josette Elayi's latest work, she takes up this issue in her biography and history of his reign (745–727 BCE). Elayi explores questions surrounding how Tiglath-pileser managed to expand the Assyrian Empire after a period of weakness, what effects Assyrian domination had on Israel and Judah, and how the two kingdoms' fates differed. Using archaeological and textual remains from the period, she completes her trilogy of biographies, which includes Tiglath-pileser's successors, son Sargon II and grandson Sennacherib, who later led the Assyrian Empire to its greatest heights.

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

<https://internationalpedagogies.wordpress.com>

During the pandemic the ICI began the Friends of the ICI International Pedagogies blog. You can still find reflections on online teaching and learning, here!

(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

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.

Check out these monthly webinars in the Sage “How to Get Published” webinar series!

<https://uk.sagepub.com/en-gb/eur/how-to-get-published-webinar>

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](#)

7/10-8/6 2023: Ancient Voices Summer School

The Classical Association of Scotland will offer Latin and Greek at all levels and an exciting array of other languages which typically are lesser-studied owing to a lack of access. Classes are around 2 hours per week and are offered at the lowest possible price point. Languages available for study include Greek, Latin, Ugaritic, Aramaic, Sumerian, and Egyptian hieroglyphs.

[More information](#)

7/23-7/24 2023

The Save Ancient Studies Alliance (SASA) recently announced their third annual free public virtual conference, Opening the Ancient World. This year's conference is themed "Discovery, Science, and Technology in the Ancient World- Traditions and Innovations."

[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.

(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

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

[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