

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE ICI REPORT FOR APRIL 2017

(a) THE SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING 2017, BERLIN

The next SBL International Meeting will take place in Berlin, Germany, from 7-11 August 2017. The Call for Papers has closed already. See this link: <https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/Internationalmeeting.aspx>

A forum meeting of ICI will take place at the Berlin conference. A panel will discuss the topic “Biblical interpretation between many continents”. The idea will be to facilitate discourse between biblical scholars from various continents, in order to examine continuities and discontinuities in methods, approaches, etc. The following speakers have already confirmed their participation in the panel: proff Diana Edelman (University of Oslo, Norway), Erhard Gerstenberger (retired from University of Marburg, and formerly from Theological Seminary São Leopoldo in Brasilia), and Gerald West (University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa). More information (time slot, venue) will be provided in due time. Watch this space.

(b) THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING 2017, BOSTON

The next SBL Annual Meeting will take place in Boston, Massachusetts, from 18-21 November 2017. The Call for Papers has closed already, and registration is open. See this link: <https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/Annualmeeting.aspx>

TAKE NOTE ABOUT VISA APPLICATIONS: We have taken note that some changes have taken place under the new presidency in the United States with reference to immigration and visas. The SBL Executive is monitoring the situation and will keep its membership and the ICI updated on any further developments. If you plan to go to Boston and have to apply for a visa, please plan ahead so that your application will be submitted well in advance.

For those looking for **more affordable accommodation at the Boston meeting**, the following list may be of assistance. PLEASE TAKE NOTE that these accommodation options are provided as a courtesy to ICI members, and that the ICI and SBL do not take any responsibility for reservations, quality or safety of these lodgings.

HI Boston**	www.bostonhostel.org	19 Stuart Street, Boston, MA 02116	\$60
Armory Guest House**	www.thearmoryhouse.com	62-64 Amory Street, Cambridge, MA 02139	\$86

Quarters on DOT by Short Term Rentals Boston	www.shorttermrentalsboston.com	80 Dorchester Street, Boston, MA 02127	\$100
La Quinta Inn & Suites Boston - Somerville	www.lq.com	23 Cummings St., Somerville, MA 02145	\$105
Ramada Boston	www.wyndhamhotels.com	800 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02122	\$119
Best Western Plus Boston Hotel	www.bestwestern.com	891 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, MA 02118	\$122
Coolidge Corner Guest House**	www.brooklinebedandbreakfast.com	17-19 Littell Road, Brookline, MA 02146-6504	\$129

**Hostel or guest house may have common shared dormitories or bathrooms

(c) 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 volumes in ANEM/MACO is:

Exploring Zechariah, Volume 1&2: The Development of Zechariah and Its Role within the Twelve

By Mark J. Boda

These volumes showcases a series of studies on the development of Zechariah as a book and its role within the development and rhetoric of the Book of the Twelve. It features the following: (i) Examination of the role that the final section of the Book of the Twelve played in drawing the corpus together into its final form; (ii) Articles drawn from a variety of journals; (iii) Ten essays that represent advances into Book of the Twelve research.

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

https://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/pubs/9780884142010_OA.pdf

(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:

Reading Ruth in Asia

Edited by Jione Havea and Peter Lau

This monograph contains readings of texts and themes from the Book of Ruth by scholars from Asia. There is a strong mix of postcolonial and contextual flavors in the essays, which together give readers a taste of Biblical Criticism in Asia. Special attention is given to the literary, cultural, gender and minoritized subjects in the Book of Ruth.

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

http://ivbs.sbl-site.org/uploads/9780884141006_OA.pdf

(e) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS – NEW BOOKS ADDED

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

Dismembering the Whole: Composition and Purpose of Judges 19–21

Edenburg, Cynthia. *Dismembering the Whole: Composition and Purpose of Judges 19–21*. Ancient Israel and Its Literature 24. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2016.

The Book of Judges ends with a bizarre narrative of sex and violence that starts with a domestic tiff and ends with the decimation of a tribe that is restored by means of abduction and rape. Cynthia Edenburg applies a fresh literary analysis, recent understandings of historical linguistics, and historical geography in her exploration of the origin of the anti-Benjamin polemic found in Judges 19–21, the growth and provenance of the book of Judges, and the shape of the Deuteronomistic History. Her study exposes how Judges 19–21 function as political polemic reflecting not the pre-monarchic period but instead the historical realities of the settlement of Benjamin during the Babylonian and Persian period.

Exploring Second Corinthians: Death and Life, Hardship and Rivalry

Oropeza, B. J. *Exploring Second Corinthians: Death and Life, Hardship and Rivalry*. Rhetoric of Religious Antiquity 3. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2016.

In 2 Corinthians, Paul responds to reports of the Corinthian congregation questioning his competency as a divinely sent messenger. Through apologetic demagogia and the use of graphic imagery related to triumphal processions, siege warfare, and emissary travels and negotiation, Paul defends his constancy, persona, and speaking abilities as he extends the offer of clemency and reconciliation to his auditors. Oropeza combines rhetorical pictures (rhetography) with interpretative layers (literary features, intertextuality, sociocultural, ideological, and sacred textures) to arrive at the rhetorical impact of Paul's message for ancient Mediterranean discourse.

Other Publishers' Resources and Resources in Spanish

Oxford University Press offers free and reduced rate access to dozens of countries. Learn more on their [website](#).

We thank the Instituto Multidisciplinario de Historia y Ciencias Humanas who is willing to make some direct links to free Spanish publications available on the ICI book repository page. See the following [link](#). Links are available there to the following books (in Spanish):

- Excavation reports of Tell el-Ghaba (Egypt)
- Study of Stela of Gebel Barkal (Egypt)
- Proceedings I institute workshop (includes articles on ANE)
- Proceedings II institute workshop (includes articles on ANE)
- Proceedings III institute workshop (includes articles on ANE)

There is also a link to the following Spanish journal:

- Journal of Egyptological Studies

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.

(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](#).

Furthermore, watch this space for new developments planned in this portfolio during 2017!

(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.

June 15, 2017**Call for Papers: The Dead Sea Scrolls Seventy Years Later. Manuscripts, Traditions, Interpretations, and Their Biblical Context**

John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland

The contributions may deal with any topic related to the Dead Sea scrolls, be it archeological, paleographic, literary, historical, social, biblical, or religious—again, in their widest understandings. The preferred approach is to present a particular theme from the perspective of the development of the related scholarly research, beginning with the first publications of a Qumran manuscript, or first/early interpretations concerning a particular topic related to Qumran research. Any other analysis or approach is also acceptable.

For more information:

See <http://ocs.academicon.pl/index.php/test/DSS2017>

July 18-22, 2017**Philosophical Investigation of the Hebrew Scriptures, Talmud and Midrash**

This conference will seek to elucidate the classical Jewish theology of *torah from heaven* in light of recent challenges. We are especially interested in papers that seek a better understanding of the views presented in the Hebrew Bible, Talmud and Midrash, according to which the torah is to be seen as entering the world through, or being given shape by, God's speech to Moses and Israel at Mt. Sinai.

Please direct correspondence to gavriell@herzlinstitute.org

August 7, 2017**Conference on Apocalyptic Literature and Mysticism: Investigating a Turn in Recent Apocalyptic Research**

Yale Divinity School and the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa, will be hosting a conference on this theme. The conference focuses on the relationship between apocalyptic literature and

Merkavah Mysticism/mystical movements/texts. The conference will take place on at the University of the Free State. Speakers include John Collins, Adela Collins, Greg Sterling, Jörg Frey and Pieter de Villiers.

For [more information](#).

August 7-11, 2017

2017 SBL International Meeting

Berlin, Germany

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

September 8-10, 2017

Biblical Interpretation for Caribbean Renewal

Jamaica Theological Seminary will host an interdisciplinary theology conference on its campus 14-16 West Avenue, Constant Spring, Kingston 8, Jamaica W.I. The conference is co-sponsored with the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology and the United Theological College of the West Indies.

Both Caribbean residents and others with an interest in the Caribbean are invited to propose papers on any aspect of the theme of “**Biblical Interpretation for Caribbean Renewal.**” We especially encourage papers that:

- propose priorities for biblical interpretation in the Caribbean
- address current practices of biblical interpretation in the Caribbean
- engage particular biblical texts in light of Caribbean realities

The due date for receiving proposals is **July 15, 2017**.

Further information on submitting proposals may be found in the [Call for Papers](#).

For more information please visit [the conference page](#) on the website of the Jamaica Theological Seminary.

October 25-26, 2017

The Dead Sea Scrolls Seventy Years Later. Manuscripts, Traditions, Interpretations, and Their Biblical Context

John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland.

The huge impact of the scrolls on the field of biblical studies (in its most expansive sense!) makes it imperative that we undertake today an effort to examine and review the large field of Dead Sea Scrolls studies. The seventieth anniversary of the first discoveries seems an opportune time. The conference creates a platform for scholarly exchange concerning the present state of professional research in the field of Qumran studies.

For more information:

See <http://ocs.academicon.pl/index.php/test/DSS2017>

November 18-21, 2017

2017 SBL Annual Meeting

Boston, Massachusetts

<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.

With best wishes for your Bible scholarship!

Louis Jonker, SBL – International Cooperation Initiative