

SBL Professional Conduct Statement

The members of the SBL constitute a community of scholars dedicated to promoting the critical investigation of biblical, religious, and theological literature and history, together with other related literature, by the exchange of scholarly research both in published form and in public forum.

While freedom of inquiry is at the heart of this enterprise, such freedom carries with it the responsibility of professional conduct. As a learned society, the SBL requires professional and intellectual conduct of its members as they exchange scholarly research in SBL publications or at SBL annual, regional, or committee meetings wherever they are held.

Professional and intellectual conduct includes, but is not limited to, conduct which is based on respect for others and which does not in any way exploit power and/or status differences such as those that exist between faculty and students or between senior and junior colleagues. Professional and intellectual conduct is free of all forms of harassment and discrimination.

Discrimination means a distinction, whether intentional or not, relating to personal characteristics of an individual or group, which has the effect of imposing burdens, obligations, or disadvantages on such individual or group not imposed on others; or which withholds or limits access to opportunities, benefits and advantages available to other members of the SBL.

Harassment means vexatious comment or conduct in relation to a person or group of persons which has the effect or purpose of creating a hostile or intimidating environment when such treatment abuses the power that one person holds over another or misuses authority; or such treatment has the effect or purpose of offending or demeaning a person or group of persons on the basis of race, ancestry, place of origin, color, ethnic group, citizenship, sex, sexual orientation, disability, creed, age, or marital/family status.

Sexual harassment includes any unwanted sexual attention or behavior by a person who knows or ought reasonably to know that such conduct is unwanted; or any implied or expressed promise of reward for complying with a sexually orientated request; or any implied or expressed threat of reprisal, in any form either of actual reprisal or the denial of opportunity for the refusal to comply with a sexually orientated request; or any inappropriate verbal or physical conduct that has a focus on sexuality or sexual identity in what reasonably may be perceived as a hostile or intimidating environment.

The SBL is committed to the creation and maintenance of a discrimination- and harassment-free environment in all of its sanctioned activities. The professional conduct of all members who participate in such activities is essential to the achievement of this standard.

Any forms of harassment as described in this statement should be reported immediately to the Chair of the SBL Council, the SBL Executive Director, or the SBL Harassment Officer as designated by Council.