

## SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE ICI REPORT FOR JUNE 2018

### (a) THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING 2018, DENVER

The next SBL Annual Meeting will take place in Denver, Colorado, from 17 to 20 November 2018. The Call for Papers is **closed**, Registering is **open**. Program Book is **available**.

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

### SOME ADDITIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN DENVER!!:

Hotel	Website	Address	Phone	Fees*	Distance to Colorado Convention Center
Hostel Fish*	<a href="http://www.hostelfish.com">www.hostelfish.com</a>	1217 20th St., Denver, CO 80202	(303) 954-0962	\$43/night (dorms) to \$120/night (private)	1 mile
11th Avenue Hotel and Hostel*	<a href="http://www.11thavenuehotelandhostel.com">www.11thavenuehotelandhostel.com</a>	1112 Broadway, Denver, CO 80204	(303) 894-0529	\$30/night (dorms) to \$55/night (single)	1 mile
Ember Hostel*	<a href="http://www.emberhostels.com">www.emberhostels.com</a>	857 Grant St., Denver, CO 80203	(303) 942-1633	\$50/night (dorms) to \$120/night (private)	1.5 miles
La Quinta Inn Denver Central	<a href="http://www.laquintadenvercentral.com">www.laquintadenvercentral.com</a>	3500 Park Ave. West, Denver, CO 80216	(303) 458-1222	\$64/night	2 miles
Motel 6 Denver Central	<a href="http://www.motel6.com">www.motel6.com</a>	3050 W 49th Ave., Denver CO 80221	(303) 455-888	\$77/night	5 miles
Extended Stay American Denver-Cherry Creek	<a href="http://www.extendedstayamerica.com">www.extendedstayamerica.com</a>	4444 Leetsdale Dr., Glendale, CO 80246	(303) 388-3880	\$80/night	5 miles

Fees are subject to change

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

### (b) THE SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING 2018, HELSINKI

The next SBL International Meeting will take place in Helsinki, Finland, from 30 July to 3 August 2018. The Call for Papers is **closed**, Program Book is **available**.

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

**ICI-Related Meetings:****International Cooperation Initiative Committee****8/01/2018****11:00 AM to 1:00 PM****Room: Room 16 - Fabianinkatu 33, Päärakennus**

Juan Manuel Tebes, Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina, Member

Carmen Palmer, Toronto School of Theology, Member

Louis Jonker, Universiteit van Stellenbosch - University of Stellenbosch, Member

S. Teofilo Correa, Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies - AIIAS,  
Member

Jaqueline du Toit, University of the Free State, Member

David Hamidovic, Université de Lausanne, Member

Alan Lenzi, University of the Pacific, Member

Christopher Hooker, Society of Biblical Literature, Member

**Everyone is welcome to join us in the following meeting! Please advertise:****Fostering Biblical Scholarship Worldwide: The Teaching and Mentorship Program of the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI)****8/02/2018****9:00 AM to 11:00 AM****Room: Room 15 - Fabianinkatu 33, Päärakennus**

The SBL International Cooperation Initiative (ICI) serves as host for the SBL Teaching and Mentorship program. The ICI is revisiting the program in its current guise to ask members for advice on how to conceive of this initiative to best serve all ICI constituencies. We recently disseminated a questionnaire on this topic to SBL members who volunteered to participate in the Program from 2009 onwards. This session will report the preliminary findings and solicit feedback on how to increase the effectiveness and extend the reach of the teaching collaboration and mentoring program, but also think imaginatively on how to broaden its scope and reach. Please join us: we welcome your suggestions on how

this program can be re-imagined and expanded. Ample time for discussion will be allowed.

Juan Manuel Tebes, Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina, Presiding

Ehud Ben Zvi, University of Alberta, Panelist (15 min)

Jaqueline du Toit, University of the Free State, Panelist (15 min)

Athalya Brenner-Idan, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Panelist (15 min)

Archie Lee, Shandong University, Panelist (15 min)

Nelson Morales, Central American Theological Seminary (SETECA), Panelist (15 min)

Christo Lombard, University of South Africa, Panelist (15 min)

Discussion (30 min)

### **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.

### **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.

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 2018, 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.

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

**(c) 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 Alan Lenzi 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](http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books_ANEmonographs.aspx) (SBL English version)

<http://www.uca.edu.ar/anem> (CEHAO Spanish version)

The latest volumes in ANEM are:

**JUSTEL, Daniel. Infancia y legalidad en el Próximo Oriente antiguo durante el Bronce Reciente (ca. 1500–1100 a. C.) Ancient Near East Monographs – Monografías sobre el Antiguo Oriente, Volume 20. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature – Centro de Estudios del Antiguo Oriente, 2018. 391 pp. ISBN 9781628372038**

In this volume Daniel Justel examines several cuneiform texts from Late Bronze Age Mesopotamia and Syria (ca. 1500–1100 BCE) that focus on legal aspects of childhood, such as child adoptions, marriage, abortion, abandonment of children, and child slavery. Justel thoroughly analyzes the role of infants in this time period and reveals the perception that adults had of children and the role that children played in processes initiated by adults.

**HAMORI, Ester J. & STOKL, Jonathan. Perchance to Dream: Dream Divination in the Bible and the Ancient Near East. Ancient Near East Monographs – Monografías sobre el Antiguo Oriente, Volume 21. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature – Centro de Estudios del Antiguo Oriente, 2018. 220 pp. ISBN 9781628372076**

Essays from an international group of experts.

This book examines the interpretation of dreams, which were thought to contain divine messages in the ancient Near East. For the first time in a single collection, scholars examine how dream divination was used in different ancient cultures. The essays, written by scholars specializing in different regions and bodies of literature, shed light on dream divination in the Bible, the Talmud, and in writings from Canaan, Mesopotamia, and Hittite Anatolia. Contributors include Franziska Ede, Esther J. Hamori, Koowon Kim, Christopher Metcalf, Alice Mouton, Scott B. Noegel, Andrew B. Perrin, Stephen C. Russell, Jonathan Stökl, and Haim Weiss.

Features:

- Perspectives from a variety of texts spanning the ancient eastern Mediterranean world.
- Essays that serve as an entry point for interested scholars and graduate students.
- A thorough study of dream divination understood as a discipline within ancient texts.

**(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:

**Nofoaiga, V. A Samoan Reading of Discipleship in Matthew. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2017.**

A reading of discipleship as service from the ancient Galilee to contemporary Samoa

The Bible contains a collection of perspectives that should not be privileged over and against the perspectives of readers from other lands. This book offers an alternative understanding of discipleship under the influence of the Samoan tautua (servant), for whom the needs of family and local people are foremost, and approaches in biblical criticism that affirm locatedness of readers. Because discipleship is also about place, which might be in-between spaces, Nofoaiga offers tautuaileva (service in-between spaces) readings of Matthew 4:12–25 and Matthew 7:24–8:22 that emphasize place (Galilee) as well as the marginalized and excluded

(the crowd). With the twirlings and ebbings expected from natives of oral cultures, Nofoaiga holds the complexity of tautuaileva in this study and offers it as his contribution to the assembling and assembly of islander criticism.

Features:

*Tautuaileva*, or service in-between spaces or in relational places, as a method of islander criticism.

A critique of traditional interpretations of the meaning of discipleship as abandoning family, duty, and responsibility.

Glossary of important Samoan terms and phrases.

#### (e) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS

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](http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books_ICIbooks.aspx)

**New books added to the ICI repository!**

**Crawford, Barry S., and Merrill P. Miller, eds. *Redescribing the Gospel of Mark. Early Christianity and Its Literature 22*. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2017.**

This is the third of a three volume series of studies by members of the Society of Biblical Literature's Consultation (1995-1997), then Seminar (1998-2003), on Ancient Myths and Modern Theories of Christian Origins, both concerned with redescribing the beginnings of Christianity as religion using theories and methods developed in the social sciences and related areas, not just the specific literature, beliefs, and practices of early Christians. Essays examine the Gospel of Mark as an author's writing in a book culture, a writing that responded to situations arising out of the first Roman-Judean war after the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple in 70 CE. A concluding retrospective follows the work of the Seminar, its developing discourse and debates, and the continuing work of successor groups in the field.

**Auld, A. Graeme. *Life in Kings: Reshaping the Royal Story in the Hebrew Bible*. Ancient Israel and Its Literature 30. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2017.**

Building on a lifetime of research and writing, A. Graeme Auld examines passages in Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, and Isaiah that recount the same stories or contain similar vocabulary. He advances his argument that Samuel and Kings were organic developments from a deftly crafted, prophetically interpreted, shared narrative he calls the Book of Two Houses—a work focused on the house of David and the house of Yahweh in Jerusalem. At the end of the study he reconstructs the synoptic material within Kings in Hebrew with an English translation.

**Tilford, Nicole L. *Sensing World, Sensing Wisdom: The Cognitive Foundation of Biblical Metaphors. Ancient Israel and Its Literature 31. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2017.***

The Bible is full of metaphors. On the surface, these metaphors seem like simple literary flourishes that have been added to the text for artistic effect. This book, however, argues that biblical metaphors reflect more basic, prelinguistic cognitive structures. These conceptual metaphors developed out of common concrete experiences and only gradually developed into the complex metaphors that one finds within biblical texts. This book explores how common sensory activities like seeing, hearing, touching, eating, breathing, and walking developed into the abstract metaphors for wisdom that one finds in Proverbs, Job, and Qohelet. Because it traces the cognitive development of a set of related metaphors across several congruent texts, it provides a model by which scholars can trace the cognitive development of biblical metaphors more generally in the Hebrew Bible and other early Jewish and Christian texts.

**Schuller, Eileen M., and Marie-Theres Wacker, eds. *Early Jewish Writings. The Bible and Women 3.1. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2017.***

This collection of essays deals with aspects of women and gender relations in early Judaism (during the Persian, Greek, and Roman empires). Some essays focus on specific writings: the Greek (Septuagint) version of Esther, Judith, Joseph and Aseneth, and the Letter of Jeremiah. Others explore how certain biblical texts are reinterpreted: Eve in the Life of Adam and Eve, the mixing of the sons of God with the daughters of men from Genesis 6:1–4, the Egyptian princess at the birth of



Moses, and how Josephus retells biblical stories. The third group of essays explore specific social contexts: Philo's views of women in the Roman empire, the Sectarian Dead Sea Scrolls, and women philosophers of the Therapeutae in Egyptian Alexandria.

**Batten, Alicia J. *Friendship and Benefaction in James*. Emory Studies in Early Christianity 15. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2017.**

Employing social description, social scientific models, and rhetorical analysis, Alicia J. Batten argues that the letter of James is conversant with the topic of friendship within Greek and Roman literature, as well as within various texts of early Christianity. She illustrates how James drew upon some of the language and concepts related to friendship with an intriguing density to advocate resistance to wealth, avoidance of rich patrons, and reliance upon God.

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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.

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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."

**(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](#).

**(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](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](mailto:sharon.johnson@sbl-site.org).

**7/25-7/27 Colloquium Biblicum Lovaniense LXVII, 2018 (President: Pierre Van Hecke, Leuven)**

For many centuries, the Song of Songs was by far one of the most commented biblical books, especially taking into consideration its limited length. After a period of diminished interest, recent scholarship is rediscovering the book. The present colloquium aims at bringing together the leading voices in contemporary Songs scholarship and by fostering the dialogue between them, at inaugurating a new phase in the research. Firstly, the colloquium will deal with the redaction history and the dating of the book. A second important discussion concerns the structure or unity of the book: is the scroll a collection of thematically loosely connected poems, or does it display in its final redactional form a unity? Given their uniqueness in the biblical corpus, scholarship has paid quite some attention to possible parallels of the Songs in the surrounding cultures as well as to the early Christian reception of Song of Songs. The latter developments are not unrelated with the reopening of the hermeneutically important question whether the book was composed with an allegorical reading in mind or not. Finally, the Song of Songs continues to fascinate the readers by its highly poetic and at times difficult language. A renewed attention for the book's metaphorical richness will therefore be an important aspect of this colloquium.

**CALL FOR SHORT PAPERS:** Short paper proposals (including name, institutional affiliation, title and abstract of 200-300 words) should be sent to: Pierre Van Hecke, President CBL 2018, [pierre.vanhecke@kuleuven.be](mailto:pierre.vanhecke@kuleuven.be) no later than March 1, 2018.

[https://theo.kuleuven.be/en/research/centres/centr\\_collbibl](https://theo.kuleuven.be/en/research/centres/centr_collbibl)

**7/16-7/20 Society of Asian Biblical Studies Conference**

Focusing on the theme: Bible and Empire in Asia: Past and Present; SABS will meet at the STFT Widya Sasana, Malang, East Java, Indonesia and accommodation will be at the Wisma St Maria Magdalena Postel, Malang.

[More information](#) or email [Tat Siong Benny Liew](mailto:Tat Siong Benny Liew)

**7/30-8/3 SBL International Meeting**

Will be held in Helsinki, Finland in conjunction with EABS.

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

**7/30-8/3 European Association of Biblical Studies**

Helsinki, 30 July-3 August: joint conference with ISBL

<https://eabs.net/site/>

**8/6 Biblical Scholarship in Secular and Post-Secular Societies**

The Department of Theology and the Center for Faith and Human Flourishing at LCC International University invite you to participate in a one-day conference in Klaipeda, Lithuania, on August 6, 2018. A special welcome is extended to colleagues attending the EABS/ISBL meetings in Helsinki.

[More information](#)

**9/25-9/27 CFP: Religious and Philosophical Conversion in the Ancient Mediterranean Traditions**

The Conference on Religious and Philosophical Conversion explore will explore conversion or converting experience in the environment of the ancient Hellenistic world(s) with attention to early Judaism and early Christianity/the New Testament. Presentations will undertake both historical and philological reconstructions relying on source material and utilizing interdisciplinary approaches.

<https://www.etf.uni-bonn.de/de/ev-theol/institute/corpc/>

**10/23-10/24 Resurrection in the Bible and Ancient Mediterranean World**

A Conference of the Institute of Biblical Studies, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland. The main theme of the symposium will be resurrection in the Bible and extra-biblical traditions of the ancient Mediterranean World. The topics covered by conference papers can include: the shape and character of the idea of resurrection in the Bible and extra-biblical literature; the historical, anthropologico-cultural and theological analysis of the ancient texts and traditions on resurrection; the genesis and development of the idea of resurrection in the Hebrew Bible; the historical, socio-cultural and theological analysis of the idea of resurrection in New Testament texts together with their moral and ecclesiological implications; resurrection in Early Christian writings and traditions.

<http://ocs.academicon.pl/index.php/test/Resurrection2018>

**11/17-11/20 SBL Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado.**

<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](http://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](mailto: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.

Thanks a lot for your interest and spread the word!

Juan

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