

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE
ICI REPORT FOR MAY 2021

(a) THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING 2021, SAN ANTONIO

November 20-23, 2021, San Antonio, Texas, USA. **Call for Papers: Closed.**

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

A note from the SBL regarding the 2021 Annual Meeting: “As we have all experienced, there is no longer business as usual. We have been closely monitoring the fluid situation related to the pandemic and exploring various scenarios for the Annual Meeting, which we expect to recommend shortly.”

(b) THE SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING 2021, CANTERBURY

July 25-29 2021, University of Kent, Canterbury, United Kingdom. **Meeting in Canterbury Cancelled**, due to ongoing health risks and travel restrictions associated with COVID-19. “The SBL Council, staff, and the International Meeting Program Committee are exploring options and alternatives to the face-to-face meeting and a typical program. Stay tuned for announcements in the coming weeks.”

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 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 2021, 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.

Please see the [SBL Meeting International Travel Grants page](#) for information regarding eligibility, award inclusions, application procedure, and criteria for awards.

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.

- Please contact the [travel grant administrator](#) with any questions.

Deadlines

The present Travel Grants Awards cycle **is now closed** to applications.

15 April 2021: Award decisions announced for 2021.

The Award Panels

Name	Panel	Term	Years of Term
Pablo R. Andiónach	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	1	2019-2021
Ester Petrenko	Eastern Europe	2	2021-2023
Juan Manuel Tebes (Chair)	All Panels	2	2021-2023
Nasili Vaka'uta	Asia and Pacific	2	2021-2023
Elaine M. Wainwright	Asia and Pacific	2	2021-2023

(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:

NOEGEL, Scott B. Wordplay in Ancient Near Eastern Texts. Ancient Near East Monographs – Monografías sobre el Antiguo Oriente, Volume 26. Atlanta: SBL Press – Centro de Estudios del Antiguo Oriente, 2021, forthcoming. ISBN 9781628372939

The first comprehensive taxonomy of functions and types of “wordplay” in ancient Near Eastern texts.

This book from Scott B. Noegel offers a comparative, in-depth study of “wordplay” in ancient Near Eastern texts. Noegel establishes comprehensive taxonomies for the many kinds of devices that scholars label as wordplay and for their proposed functions. The consistent terminology Noegel proposes offers students and scholars of Sumerian, Akkadian, Egyptian, Ugaritic, Hebrew, and Aramaic a useful template for documenting and understanding the devices they discover. The book concludes by suggesting potential avenues for future research.

(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 of IVBS is:

Welcoming the Nations: International Sociorhetorical Explorations
Vernon K. Robbins (Editor), Roy R. Jeal (Editor). IVBS 13. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2020. ISBN 9781628372991.

Innovative ideas and interpretations.

This volume celebrates and reflects upon sociorhetorical interpretation of the New Testament as developed by Vernon K. Robbins in *The Tapestry of Early Christian Discourse* (Routledge) and *Exploring the Texture of Texts* (Continuum), both published in 1996. Scholars from around the world take sociorhetorical interpretation into new arenas to approach issues arising from their own contexts, including the environment, gender, and economics. Part 1 focuses on the development and emergence of sociorhetorical interpretation. Part 2 presents particular applications of sociorhetorical interpretation in Australia and Oceania. Part 3 includes essays using sociorhetorical interpretation in Africa and Asia. The essays in this book point to the richness and ever-expanding possibilities for sociorhetorical commentary and the learning that enriches all of us.

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

A number of volumes have been added to the repository! Recent additions include the following volumes:

Metso, Sarianna. *The Community Rule: A Critical Edition with Translation*. Early Judaism and Its Literature 51. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

The discovery and translation of the Dead Sea Scrolls transformed our understanding of the life and history of ancient Jewish communities when both rabbinic Judaism and early Christianity were emerging. As part of this rich discovery, the Community Rule serves to illuminate the religious beliefs and practices as well as the organizational rules of the group behind the Dead Sea Scrolls. However, there is no single, unified text of the Community Rule; rather, multiple manuscripts of the Community Rule show considerable variation and highlight the work of ancient Jewish scribes and their intentional literary development of the text. In this volume, Sarianna Metso brings together the surviving evidence in a new edition that presents a critically established Hebrew text with an introduction and an English translation.

Smith, Andrew. *Plotinus on Beauty (Enneads 1.6 and 5.8.1–2): The Greek Text with Notes*. Writings from the Greco-Roman World 44. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

Plotinus, the father of Neoplatonism, composed the treatise *On Beauty (Ennead 1.6)* as the first of a series of philosophical essays devoted to interpreting and elucidating Platonic ideas. This treatise is one of the most accessible and influential of Plotinus's works, and it provides a stimulating entrée into the many facets of his philosophical activity. In this volume Andrew Smith first introduces readers to the Greek of Plotinus and to his philosophy in general, then provides the Greek text of and English notes on Plotinus's systematic argument and engaging exhortation to foster the inner self. The volume ends with the text of and notes on Plotinus's complementary statements in *On Intelligible Beauty (Ennead 5.8.1–2)*.

Polliack, Meira, and Athalya Brenner-Idan eds. *Jewish Biblical Exegesis from Islamic Lands*. Bible and Its Reception 1. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

Medieval Judeo-Arabic translations of the Hebrew Bible and their commentaries provide a rich source for understanding a formative period in the intellectual, literary, and cultural history and heritage of Jews in Islamic lands. The carefully

selected texts in this volume offer intriguing insight into Arabic translations and commentaries by Rabbanite and Karaite Jewish exegetes from the tenth to the twelfth centuries CE, arranged according to the three divisions of the Torah, the Former and Latter Prophets, and the Writings. Each text is embedded within an essay discussing its exegetical context, reception, and contribution.

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

<https://internationalpedagogies.wordpress.com>

If you would also like to contribute to the Friends of the ICI International Pedagogies blog, please be in touch with Carmen Palmer at carmen.palmer@mail.utoronto.ca

(h) 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 [n.b., when the pandemic is over].

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>

(i) 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!

(j) 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>

New! Announcing Custom Book Notifications:

“SBL Central’s book notifications alert you as soon as new books are added to the site and when new reviews are published. Not only are these alerts more timely, but they are also tailored to your specific interests: you receive notifications only for books and reviews tagged with the subjects that you select. To take advantage of this powerful new feature, go to [SBL Central](#) and Sign In using the button in the upper right corner. (SBL Central uses the same email address and password you use to log in at the [main SBL website](#).) Once you are signed in, click on your name in the upper right corner to display a dropdown menu and select Manage Book Notifications. The Manage Book Notifications page displays a list of Available Subjects on the left and all your Selected Subjects on the right. Subjects are arranged into two broad groups, Methods and Texts, each of which contains multiple subsets. Methods, for example, contains the subsets Archaeology and Iconography, Comparative Religion/History of Religion, Epigraphy and Paleography, History and Culture, and so on. Each subset contains a list of specific subjects that you may select for an alert. Double-click an individual subject or use the blue arrow buttons to move it to or from your Selected Subjects. Once you have selected your subjects of interest, click the Submit button to save. You’ll now receive a weekly email listing all the new books and reviews added to SBL Central in your selected subjects, with links to book pages. If you are interested in

volunteering to review for *RBL*, this is a great way to be updated on books newly available for review (scroll to the bottom of any book page to see if it's available).

We will continue to send the weekly *RBL* newsletter announcing all reviews published in the past week. SBL Central book notifications complement the *RBL* newsletter by alerting you as soon as new books are added to the site and by allowing you to choose your own subjects of interest.”

(k) JSTOR

News!: JSTOR resources during COVID-19. Last updated: 5 January, 2021

“To support our institutions during this challenging time, JSTOR and our participating publishers are making an expanded set of content freely available to our participating institutions where students have been displaced due to COVID-19”.

https://about.jstor.org/covid19/?utm_source=jstor&utm_medium=display&utm_campaign=dsp_jstor_home_right_covid19_03_2020

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.”

(I) UPCOMING EVENTS

News! Please check carefully all links because some if not all of these events may have been moved or cancelled due to the COVID-19 emergency.

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.

2021

6/12 Anglican Association of Biblical Scholars—Virtual June Meeting, “Teaching in Context”

The Anglican Association of Biblical Scholars invites you to join a virtual meeting on the topic “Teaching in Context” on Saturday, June 12, 2021, at 11:00 AM, EDT (Eastern Daylight Time = GMT-4). Our guest speaker will be

[Dr. Stephen Lim of Ming Hua Theological College in Hong Kong.](#)

Break-out room discussions will follow, and the session will close with a brief service of worship in one of the many forms of the Anglican tradition. Register to receive the Zoom link at the AABS website: <https://aabs.org/>. All are welcome.

7/25-7/29 SBL International Meeting

University of Kent, Canterbury, England: **(Meeting in Canterbury cancelled, see “b” above for more information).**

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

10/20-10/21 Biblical Anthropology - a Message for Contemporary Man

The Pontifical Biblical Commission together with the Institute of Biblical Studies at The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin organize a conference “Biblical Anthropology - a Message for Contemporary Man” .

Due to pandemic restrictions, the conference will be held on the Internet, via the Zoom platform.

(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**News!: Great online source in times of the COVID-19 emergency**

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

New from Bible Odyssey:

[Manasseh](#)

[Eat This Scroll \(Ezekiel and Revelation\)](#)

[Ahaz](#)

[Mount Nebo](#)

[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.

News!: The first batch of translations are available. These 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!

(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.

Thank you for your ongoing interest and support!

Carmen Palmer
Chair, International Cooperation Initiative of the Society of Biblical Literature