

## HEBREW BIBLE/OLD TESTAMENT SEMINAR

Convener: Prof Hindy Najman (Oriël)

Location: Harris Seminar Room, Oriël College at 2:30–4.00 p.m.\* followed by tea

### Michaelmas Term 2017

#### **Week 1: Mon 9 October – Induction (all are welcome)\***

\*Light lunch is served at 1.30 p.m.

Chair: Hindy Najman (Oriël). For all those in attendance, faculty and students will briefly introduce their work to our subject group.

#### **Weeks 2–5: Joint Seminar with Cambridge on “Translation and Interpretation”**

*Co-Organizers: James Aitken (Cambridge) and Hindy Najman (Oriël)*

#### **Week 2: Mon 16 October (in Oxford)**

Chair: James Aitken (Cambridge)

Speakers: Hindy Najman (Oriël) and Arjen Bakker (Oriël) – *Conceptual Translation and Transfer of Culture*

#### **Week 3: Wed 25 October (in Cambridge)**

Chair: James Aitken (Cambridge)

Speaker: Jonathan Stökl (King’s College London) – *Catching an Allusion in a Net: Thoughts on the “Translation” of Mesopotamian Motifs, Allusions and Tradition History*

#### **Week 4: Mon 30 October (in Oxford)**

Chair: Alison Salvesen (Mansfield)

Speakers: Jan Joosten (Christ Church) and Jelle Verburg (St John’s) – *Acculturation and Identity: Lexical Choice in the Septuagint*

#### **Week 5.1: Wed 8 November (in Cambridge)**

Chair: Hindy Najman (Oriël)

Speakers: Marieke Dhont (Metz) and James Aitken (Cambridge) – *Cultural Assumptions of the Septuagint Translation*

#### **Week 5.2: Thu 9 November – Visit to Oxford’s Ashmolean Museum\***

\*Meet at entrance of the Ashmolean at 10:00 a.m.

10.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m. viewing exhibition *Imagining the Divine*

See the website: <https://empiresoffaith.com/exhibition/>

11.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. presentation in the Headley Lecture Theatre, followed by discussion

Speaker: Jaś Elsner (Corpus Christi)

#### **Week 6: Mon 13 November – Student Presentations (all are welcome)\***

\*This session will run 2.30-4.30 p.m., tea served at 4.30 p.m.

Chair: Hindy Najman (Oriël)

Rory Turnbull (Oriël) – *Life as the Reward for Righteousness in Early Jewish Texts*

James Nati (Yale) – *Non-Biblical Texts in Textual Criticism: The Case of Serekh ha-Yahad*

Itai Kagan (Hebrew University) – *The Origin of the Legal Formulae in Jubilees’ Festivals*

#### **Week 8: Mon 27 November**

Chair: Jan Joosten (Christ Church)

Stephanie Dalley (Oxford) – *Kedor-laomer and Genesis 14: 1-16: Some Possible New Light on an Old Problem*

## Hilary Term 2018

### “Old Wine in New Bottles” Thematic Seminar on Ritual and Innovation

#### **Week 1: Mon 15 January**

Introduction to the theme: Sondra Hausner (St Peter's), Nathan MacDonald (Cambridge), and Hindy Najman (Oriel)

Nathan MacDonald (Cambridge) – *Why Do Rituals Change? Towards a Typology of Ritual Change in Early Judaism*

#### **Week 2: Mon 22 January\***

Judith Newman (Toronto) – *How to Invent a Ritual in Early Judaism in Seven Easy Steps*

**\*6.30 OT/HB Dinner:** after the OT/HB seminar there will be drinks and dinner in Oriel College (reception in the large SCR followed by dinner in Champneys Room)

#### **Week 3: Mon 29 January**

Martti Nissinen (Helsinki) – *Why Prophecy Is (Not) Magic?*

Please note that in week 4 there is a special OUP session on Wednesday

#### **Week 4: Wed 7 February – Graduate Professionalization Session\***

\*5:00–6:30 p.m., Harris Seminar Room

Tom Perridge (editor for OUP) – *How to Get Your Book Published?*

#### **Week 5: Mon 12 February**

Jenni Williams (Wycliffe Hall) – *A Surprising Absence? Adoption in the Hebrew Bible*

#### **Week 6: Mon 19 February – Student Presentations**

Judith Clarke (Oriel) – *The Liturgical Calendar at Qumran*

Elizabeth Stell (Oriel) – TBD

Susannah Rees (Oriel) – TBD

Mark Lester (Yale) – *Deuteronomy and the Transmission of Pentateuchal Traditions*

#### **Week 7: Mon 26 February**

Naphtali Meshel (Princeton) – *Levitical Logic and the Science of Ritual*

#### **Week 8: Mon 5 March**

Jacqueline Vayntrub (Brandeis) – *Like Father, Like Son? Theorizing Transmission in Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Literature*

## Trinity Term 2018

### Week 1: 23 April

Chair: Hindy Najman (Oriel)

Speaker: Hugh Williamson (Christ Church) – *Decoding Isaiah 13*

### Week 2: 30 April

Chair: Jan Joosten (Christ Church)

Speaker: John Srenock (Oriental Studies) – *Reading with the Scribes: Psalm 104 through the Lens of Textual Criticism*

### Week 3: 7 May

No session this week.

### Week 4: 14 May

Chair: Hindy Najman (Oriel)

Speaker: Hywel Clifford (Ripon College Cuddesdon) – *The Shema in its Ancient Near Eastern Setting*

### Week 5: 21 May

Chair: Benjamin Johnson (Wycliffe Hall)

Speaker: John Day (Lady Margaret Hall) – *"So God created humanity in his own image" (Genesis 1:27). What did the text originally mean and what have theologians and exegetes thought it meant?*

### Week 6: 28 May

Chair: Susan Gillingham (Worcester)

Speaker: Katherine Dell (Cambridge) – *Wisdom in Exile in Babylon*

### Week 7: 4 June – Daylong workshop on Wisdom and Ethics\*

\*Begins at 9.00 a.m. and ends at 6.30 p.m. followed by drinks (see separate schedule)

Conveners: John Barton (Oriel) and Hindy Najman (Oriel)

Speakers: John Barton (Oriel); Jan Joosten (Christ Church); Laura Quick (Princeton); Hywel Clifford (Ripon College Cuddesdon); Elisa Uusimäki (Helsinki); Hans Decker (Oriel); Arjen Bakker (Oriel); Mark Edwards (Christ Church); Konrad Schmid (Zurich)

Respondents: John Jarick (Regent's Park); Benjamin Wright (Lehigh University); Martin Goodman (Wolfson); Judith Clark (Oriel); Rory Turnbull (Oriel); Markus Bockmuehl (Keble); Olivia Stewart Lester (Theology and Religion); Hindy Najman (Oriel); John Srenock (Oriental Studies)

### Week 8: 11 June

Chair: Hindy Najman (Oriel)

Speaker: David Lambert (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) – *Beyond Scripture and Interpretation: The Torah as Quasi-Object, Quasi-Subject*