



Oriel Centre for the Study of the Bible

Annual Report 2021-2022

Professor Hindy Najman

*Oriel and Laing Professor of the Interpretation of Holy Scripture
Director of the Oriel Centre for the Study of the Bible*



Oriel
College

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

“The Centre for the Study of the Bible was established only five years ago by Professor Najman. Over that short period the Centre has established itself as a leading international centre for teaching and research here at Oriel College.

Over that short period, thanks to support from leading foundations, the University, and the College’s governing body the Centre has excelled in scholarship and intellectual endeavour. This is exemplified not least by its attraction to practitioners from all over the globe in its research, seminars, lectures, publications, and conferences.”

- Lord Mendoza, Provost of Oriel College

Contents

Introduction	1
<hr/>	
List of publications for 2021-2022 and current research projects of Professor Hindy Najman	2
<hr/>	
Invited lectures and conference presentations	3
<hr/>	
Service to the field	5
<hr/>	
List of programmes	6
<hr/>	
Events	7
<hr/>	
Achievements of lecturers, postdocs, and DPhil students	8
<hr/>	



This year has continued to be a year of many challenges. Our colleagues and our students continued to struggle with the challenges of the ongoing presence of the pandemic. And despite all of that, we have had an incredibly vibrant and vital year of teaching, research, and publications. Additionally, we have had many students who have had great achievements including the completion of degrees. Our seminars, workshops, and conferences are growing and thriving in person and online.

This has been possible thanks to the support for our programme and our students, as well as the amazing support and deep commitment we receive from our community of students, postdoctoral fellows, tutors, and post holders in Hebrew Bible/Old Testament community.

Our programme continues to be vital and our achievements are extensive. At the heart of each of our lectures, workshops, and programmes is a growing community which is courageous, rigorous, and willing to take intellectual risks in the spirit of academic freedom and deep commitment to the subject of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible and early biblical interpretation.

Find below the achievements of Professor Hindy Najman during the 2021 – 2022 academic year.



List of Publications for 2021-2022 and Current Research Projects of Professor Hindy Najman

Refereed essays

- 1) "Reading the Blood Plague (Exod 7:14-25): The Hermeneutics of a Composite Text." Co-authored with Konrad Schmid. *Journal of Biblical Literature* (2022): 23-42.
- 2) "Imitatio Dei and the Formation of the Subject in Ancient Judaism." *Journal of Biblical Literature* 140 (2021): 309-323.

Invited essays

- 1) "Textual Unities and Poetic Processes in Ancient Judaism." *The Congress Volume Aberdeen 2019*. Pages 252-290. Edited with Christl Maier, Grant Macaskill, and Joachim Schaper. Supplements to Vetus Testamentum. Leiden: Brill, 2022.
- 2) "Introduction to Formation of the Subject—Essays in Honor of Carol Newsom's 70th Birthday." Co-authored with Arjen Bakker and Jutta Jokiranta. Edited by Jutta Jokiranta, Arjen Bakker, and Hindy Najman. *Dead Sea Discoveries* 28. Pages 275-282. Leiden: Brill, 2021.
- 3) "The Jewish Image of God in Late Antiquity." Authored by Martin Goodman with co-authored response from Jaś Elsner and Hindy Najman. *Imagining the Divine: Exploring Art in Religions Across Eurasia in Late Antiquity*. Pages 66-81. Edited by Jaś Elsner and Rachel Wood. London: British Museum Press, 2021.

Edited and co-edited volumes and journals

- 1) *Protestant Bible Scholarship: Anti-Semitism, Philo-Semitism and Anti-Judaism*. Edited with Arjen Bakker, René Bloch, Yael Fisch, and Paula Fredriksen. Supplements to the Journal for the Study of Judaism 200. Leiden: Brill, 2022.
- 2) *Formation of the Subject: Essays in Honor of Carol Newsom's 70th Birthday*. Edited with Arjen Bakker and Jutta Jokiranta. *Dead Sea Discoveries* 28. Leiden: Brill, 2021.

The narrative below is organised around three research trajectories in which I have contributed by way of publications, editing volumes, research presentations, and conferences. In the context of these three topics, I have published, created conditions for postgraduates to learn and present, and also fostered research for early career researchers.

I. Formation of the Subject:

I have worked extensively on the intersection between theological, philosophical, and philological discussions of the self. This is an important intersection between concepts of perfection and exemplarity pertaining to human potential. In 2021, I published "Imitatio Dei and the Formation of the Subject in Ancient Judaism," exploring the way in which the biblical tradition reflects on the formation of the subject and how ancient Judaism developed concepts of the human self as perfectible and aspirational. I gave invited papers on this topic at Cambridge University, Durham University, and Hebrew University as well as in Princeton, NYU, and Champagne Urbana. I also co-edited and contributed to a volume on the topic of the Formation of the Subject in 2021. In the introduction, I proposed innovative directions for future research, highlighting work that would bridge biblical studies with classics and philosophy. This also resulted in an interdisciplinary seminar HT22: Formation of the Subject (with Classics, Theology, and Philosophy).

II. Poetic Processes and Ancient Practices of Reading:

I have been working on new models for thinking about hermeneutics and practices of reading across the past three years. I presented and published on this topic, all rethinking how to understand processes of composition, interpretation, and scribal practices. In addition, I lectured on this topic (both in person and online) at the following Universities: Hebrew University, Aberdeen, Durham, Munich (LMU), NYU, and Princeton. This is also exemplified in my recently published article: "Textual Unities and Poetic Processes in Ancient Judaism".

III. Critical History of Scholarship

I have reformulated and contributed to a critical evaluation of the history of scholarship. With respect to Protestant Bible Scholarship, I have challenged scholarly categorizations of genre, and anachronistic impositions upon the field. This constitutes an overall rethinking of our scholarly assumptions as well as contributing to an ethical reconceiving of the state of biblical studies, of the study of antiquity and of the history of philology and theology.

I co-organized an international conference followed by the publication of conference proceedings entitled: *Protestant Bible*

Scholarship: Anti-Semitism, Philo-Semitism and Anti-Judaism (2022). This volume prepares the way for a new form of scholarship that is mindful of its own power and susceptibility to violence and racism. Relatedly, I have delivered many papers on the rethinking of scholarly categories and co-published a piece responding to and problematizing “The Jewish Image of God in Late Antiquity,” and a journal issue rethinking cultic rituals and various forms of religious innovation and more recently presented a paper in June 2022 in Cambridge University, entitled: “Beyond Monotheism: Who is Counting?”

For a full list of publications and positions please see:

https://www.oriel.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/najman_cv_-_jan_2022.docx.pdf

Invited lectures and conference presentations

May 2021

Keynote at the Apocalypticism Congress 11th Enoch Seminar—Congress on Apocalypticism in the Ancient World.

Time, Wisdom, and Prophecy: Deconstructing Categories.

September and October 2021

Princeton University, Stewart Lectures

Vitality of Judaism

January 2022

University of California, Santa Barbara

Poesis, Vitality and Forward Moving Philology

February 2022

UK Rabbinics Network: *Natural Thinking and the development of the concept of Nature in Jewish Antiquity*

University of Glasgow: *A New Approach to Manuscripts and the History of Interpretation*

March 2022

Hebrew University, Bible Seminar

Philological and Conceptual Developments in Ancient Judaism

April 2022

Manchester University, Authentication and Forgery workshop

Presented new research with Irene Peirano Garrison (Harvard): *Authentication and Innovation in Antiquity: In Search of the Authentic*

University of Marburg, presented at Lament and Trauma Conference

June 2022

Tel Aviv University presentation to Research Seminar on Ancient Judaism

Cambridge University, Conference on Monotheism. I presented: *Beyond Monotheism: Who's Counting*

Wuppertal University, Conference on Epistemology of the Ancient Fertile Crescent. I presented: *Concepts of Nature in Second Temple Judaism: A Philological and Philosophical Exploration*

Service to the field

October 2021

Appointed associate editor for the Journal of Biblical Literature (flagship journal for the field of biblical studies). 10,000 person readership.

Curriculum Review

I have been very involved in implementing and refining the new curriculum for Old Testament/Hebrew Bible. I have also hired and mentored our new biblical Hebrew lecturer. I have also been especially involved in developing lectures and classes for 1101 (Introduction to the Hebrew Bible).

Redesigned MPhil and MSt

I continue to streamline the two PGR degrees in my subject area to align with Theology and Religion.

I am involved in the mentoring of 6 DPhils currently. I meet to discuss their tutorials and their classes and we reflect on effective pedagogy.

The coordinator for 1101 (lecture course) and I have also developed and improved the lecture sequence each year. I have developed new text classes and new reading groups that I teach

and co-teach each term for postgraduates (Greek, Hebrew, and Syriac). These are essential for the formation and training of our PG community. Each year I am involved in my subject area to increase coordination between lectures, text classes, and tutorials among colleagues in the subject area. And I regularly organise meetings for lecturers, tutors, and associate professors to meet together to discuss the curriculum and the improvement of the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

I have overseen the subject area of the Hebrew Bible in Theology and Religion. I run the subject group meetings each term; I oversee the delivery and the supervision of the PGT students in the programme. This involves coordinating teaching for DPhils and mentoring them in their teaching of classes and tutorials. I also organise and coordinate mock job interviews and job talks for our PGT students and our JRFs and ECRs.

March - June 2022

Served on hiring panel for Statutory Professorship in Oxford.





List of Programmes

Seminars

Hebrew Bible / Old Testament Seminar

(average attendance: 50 people in person; during covid we reached between 65-80 people weekly for average attendance on a virtual platform) runs each term and hosts the most important scholars in the field.

Michaelmas Term 2021 - Comparative Philology: Talking Across Cultures

Conveners: Hindy Najman (Oriël), Paul Collins (Oriël), and Bruno Currie (Oriël)

Hilary Term 2022 - postponed due to covid (rescheduled for Michaelmas Term 2023 in the Weston).

Trinity Term 2022 - Reading the Pentateuch: Exploring the Hermeneutics of a Complex and Composite Text

Conveners: Hindy Najman (Oriël) and Konrad Schmid (Zürich)

Early Biblical Interpretation Seminar (average attendance: 30 people in person and we averaged between 40-55 people when we ran it virtually) focuses on the study of texts and considers the vitality of biblical texts, traditions, and themes across the ancient world.

Hilary Term 2022 - Formation of the Subject
Sponsored by TORCH and the Oriël Centre for the Study of the Bible

Trinity Term 2022 - Linked seminar to the Hebrew Bible / Old Testament. Seminar on the topic of Legal Exegesis, Historical Hermeneutics, and Divine Attributes.

Convener: Hindy Najman (Oriël)

Ethical Reading Seminar (average attendance: 30-40 people in person and with an average of 50-75 people online during the past two years when we used a virtual platform) runs in HT only. This seminar primarily brings together biblical scholars and classicists (but other disciplines are welcome) who study a particular topic through a variety of disciplines and approaches.

Hilary Term 2022 - What is Commentary?

Conveners: Hindy Najman (Oriël) and Constanze Güthenke (Corpus Christi)





Reading groups

Biblical Hebrew Reading Group (average attendance 20-25 people; online our average is 25-30 people with a virtual platform). I convene the reading group and invite lecturers and JRFs and advanced DPhils to teach biblical Hebrew. This is an opportunity to read a biblical text under the guidance of our faculty. I run these reading groups every term.

Hellenistic Jewish Texts, Philo of Alexandria Reading Group (average attendance 10-12 people). I run these sessions online together with Professor Scott Scullion (Worcester).

Hodayot Reading Group I run these sessions in person.

Extra sessions

Postgraduate professionalization sessions (average attendance 12-18 PG students)

In coordination with the faculty of Theology and Religion and my own subject area, I run the following sessions each year: "Practice for conference presentations", "How to write abstracts?", "How to get monographs published (with Press editors)?", and "Applying for JRFs".

This year we have run the following: "From dissertation to monograph" on 7 February 2022, "How to write an abstract for SBL?" on 14 February 2022, "Applying for JRFs and Assistant Professorships" on 11 May 2022.

Writers' Workshops

I designed the writers' workshop, which focuses on the written work of the students. They receive feedback on their presentations. I convene these sessions 3 times a year for advanced PGT and PGR students.

Ashmolean Museum visits

Study Room Day at the Ashmolean: Part II on the ANE Gallery with Professor Paul Collins
30 May 2022

Special Hebrew Bible/Old Testament seminar visit with Professor Paul Collins
28 February 2022



Events



The Knapp Family Foundation Lecture for the Oriel College Centre for the Study of the Bible

The Transmission of the Hebrew Bible from Late Antiquity to the Middle Ages.

Speaker: Geoffrey Khan (Cambridge)

24 May 2022.

Oxbridge Day

Co-organisers: Annie Calderbank (Oriel) and Sarah Wisialowski (Oriel).

29 April 2022.

Finalists' and Masters Students' Writers' Workshop

26 and 27 April 2022.

Speaker's Lectures Series: *How to Read the Torah: The Historical Hermeneutics of a Composite Text.*

Speaker: Konrad Schmid (Zürich)

25 April – 2 May 2022.

Reconceptualising Monotheism: Concepts and Cultures in Ancient Israel

Speakers: Hywel Clifford (Oxford), Joachim Schaper (Aberdeen), Eckart Otto (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München), Nathan MacDonald (Cambridge), Antonella Bellantuono (Lille), Peter Machinist (Harvard), Daniel Fleming (New York), Phillip Lasater (Oxford), Friedhelm Hartenstein (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München), Guy Stroumsa (Jerusalem), Konrad Schmid (Zürich).

4 November 2021.

Speaker's Lectures Series: *Parting of the Ways*

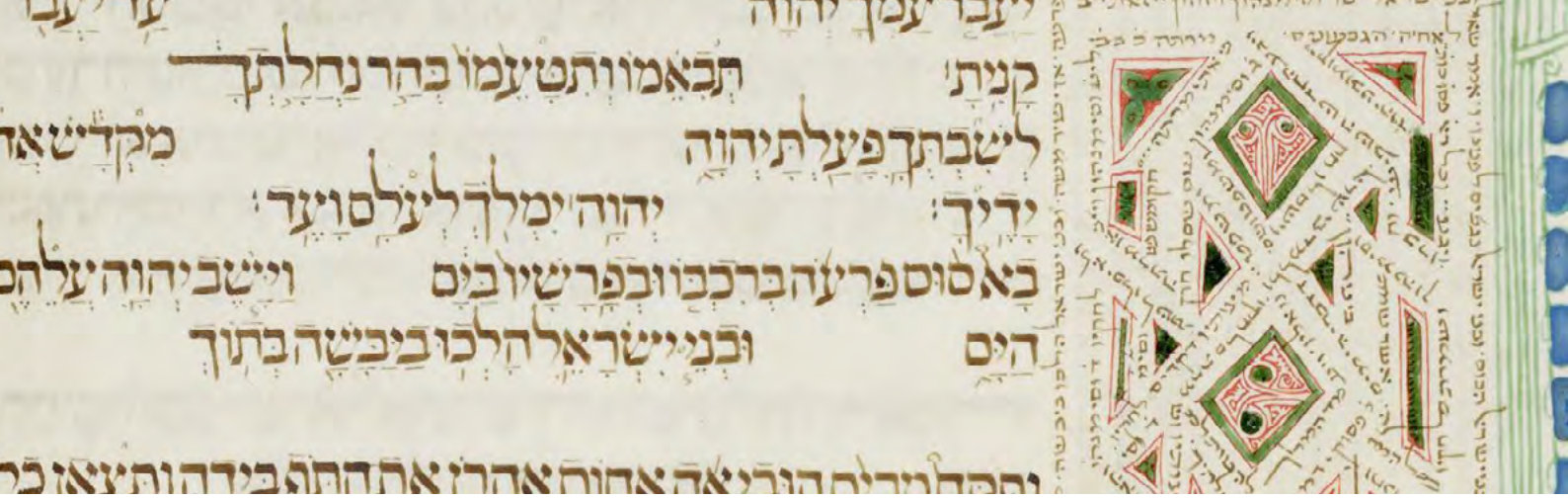
Speaker: Adele Reinhartz (Ottawa).

26, 27, and 28 October 2021.

Magical and Literary Enchantment in the Ancient World: The Poetic-Pragmatic Aspect of Ancient Magical Texts.

Speakers: Daniel James Waller (Oxford), Daniel Schwemer (Würzburg), Richard Gordon (Erfurt), Siam Bhayro (Exeter), Dorota Molin (Oxford), Ortal-Paz Saar (Utrecht), Sarah Iles Johnston (Ohio).

21 October 2021.



Achievements of lecturers, postdocs, and DPhil students

Viva:

ALEXANDER MCCARRON

Successfully passed his Viva and received his DPhil in MT21.

JELLE VERBURG

Successfully passed his Viva and received his DPhil in HT22.

SHANNON PARROTT

Successfully passed her Viva and received her DPhil in TT22.

HANS DECKER

Successfully passed his Viva and received and submitted his minor corrections which were accepted in HT22 and received his DPhil in July of 2022.

Confirmation:

ELIZABETH STELL

Passed her confirmation for DPhil in MT21.

LYNDON DRAKE

Passed his confirmation for DPhil in MT21.

HAKSEO KIM

Passed his confirmation for DPhil in HT22.

REBEKAH VAN SANT CLARK

Passed her confirmation for DPhil in HT22.

Transfer:

SARAH WISIALOWSKI

Passed her transfer for DPhil in MT21.

ANNIE CALDERBANK

Passed her transfer for DPhil in HT22.

JIANI SUN

Passed her transfer for DPhil in TT22.

I HAVE INCLUDED HERE SOME OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF COLLEAGUES AND STUDENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE BIBLE.



Matthew Albanese

I was awarded the position of Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies at Union University in Jackson, TN where I teach Introduction to Old Testament & New Testament, Biblical Interpretation, Greek Language, Biblical Studies Electives.



I presented a paper for the IOSCS at SBL in San Antonio, 2021 on "Greek Isaiah and the Septuagint Lexicon." I also presented a paper at NAPS in Chicago, 2022 on "Greek Syntax and Literary 'Unity' in Ignatius' Epistle to the Magnesians." I received monetary funds-grants through Union University for both of these conferences (for what it's worth).

I also submitted my final DPhil corrections in June of 2022, and anticipate being awarded the doctoral degree this summer.

I have grown pedagogically this year in my course development and lecture preparation for the American University system. I have come to appreciate the difficulties involved in building a semester-long course structured around lectures. My previous teaching experiences were largely seminar-based. But to complement this experience, I have benefitted from constructing a coherent and progressive arc which can be conveyed through a lecture-based approach. Union helpfully provided a series of pedagogical seminars for new faculty. I benefited from these in many ways as I began teaching full-time.

Anne Calderbank

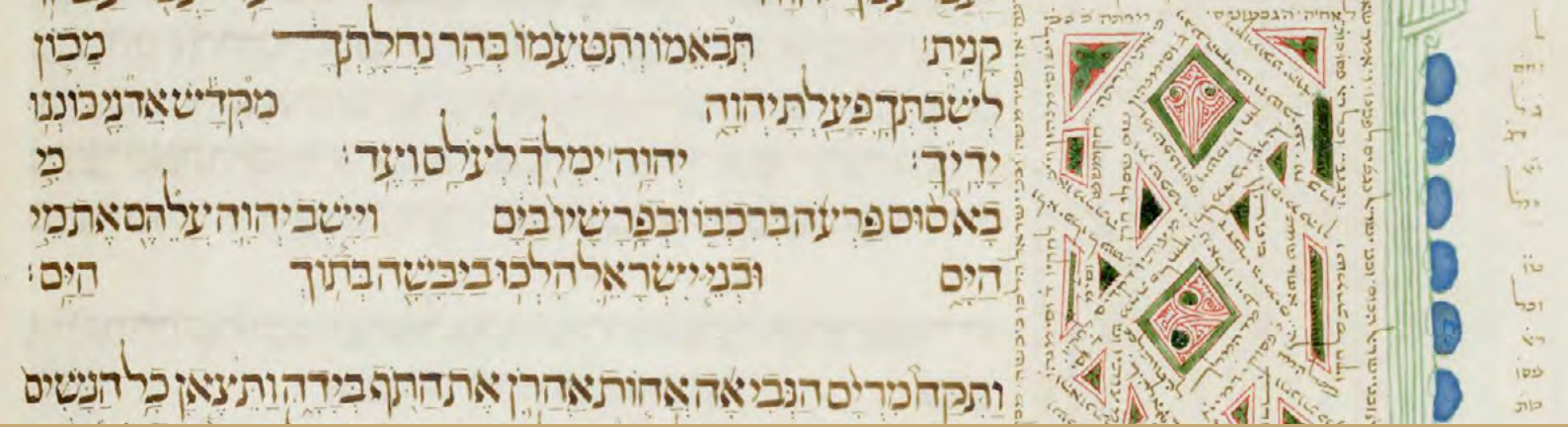
I have grown intellectually a huge amount across the last year, which is the second year of my DPhil. I have benefited greatly from the many seminars organised by the Centre for the Study of the Bible. In particular, the seminar on the Pentateuch this Trinity Term has been important for my research which involves study of many Pentateuchal texts. I have continued to develop my language skills including Hebrew, Greek, Syriac, and Ethiopic through reading groups and classes. I have also begun teaching this year and learnt a lot from improving my pedagogical technique.



My achievements this year include the publication of a peer-reviewed article based on my MPhil dissertation in the journal *Dead Sea Discoveries*. I have also passed Transfer, the first review of my doctoral work. I organised and presented a paper at the Oxbridge Day biblical studies conference, and I have also been accepted to present a paper at IOSOT in Zurich over the summer. The awards I currently hold include Arts and Humanities Research Council doctoral funding, a Clarendon Scholarship, and a Knapp Foundation bursary.

"I have benefited greatly from the many seminars organised by the Centre for the Study of the Bible."

- Anne Calderbank



Jeremiah Coogan

Jeremiah Coogan, PhD
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow
| Faculty of Theology and
Religion | University of Oxford

From autumn 2022: Assistant
Professor of New Testament
| Jesuit School of Theology |
Berkeley, CA.



During the 2021–2022 academic year, I was a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow in the Faculty of Theology and Religion. In addition to pursuing my own research, I had the opportunity to participate in a wide range of seminars and workshops. I also prioritised — and benefited enormously from — conversations with graduate students, other early career scholars, senior colleagues, and visiting scholars. I continued to develop as a teacher and learn Oxford's academic system by giving lectures, offering tutorials, and participating in various aspects of examining at both graduate and undergraduate level.

Oxford has provided a critical and collegial context for my research. My current book project, *The Invention of Gospel Literature*, reimagines ongoing debates about continuity and change in Second Temple, rabbinic, and early Christian texts in order to provide a new account of how readers in the Roman Mediterranean conceptualised “Gospel” as a category. This project brings together scholarly conversations in the fields of New Testament, ancient Judaism, early Christianity, and Classics. I have almost completed drafting a manuscript of the book and have started conversations with series editors about potential academic presses.

Over the course of the year, I presented seven papers in Oxford seminars from Classics, Theology and Religion, and Hebrew and Jewish Studies. I presented another fourteen

papers to academic audiences in Berkeley, Birmingham, Heidelberg, Munich, Nottingham, and Regensburg, as well as at conferences of the Centro Italiano di Studi Superiori sulle Religioni, the North American Society for the Study of Apocryphal Literature, the Society of Biblical Literature, and the Society for Classical Studies. I also organised an online workshop on “Reading In and Out of Order in the Roman Mediterranean” in November 2021 and an in-person workshop on “Rethinking Apologetic and Identity in the Late Roman Empire” (organised with Dr Mattias Gassman, Classics) in April 2022. These varied audiences provided the opportunity to test and refine ideas (most of them part of my current book project) and also afforded possibilities for new scholarly conversations and collaborations.

My first monograph, *Eusebius the Evangelist* is in press with Oxford University Press and will appear early this autumn. During the course of the academic year, I also published peer-reviewed articles in the *Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha* and the *Journal for Ecclesiastical History*. Further article arising from my work this year are forthcoming in the *Scottish Journal of Theology*, the *Journal of Theological Studies*, and the *Journal of Early Christian Studies*, as well as in several edited volumes. I received two major awards for research. I received the “Eusebius Essay Prize” from the *Journal of Ecclesiastical History* for my article “The Ways that Parted in the Library: The Gospels according to Matthew and according to the Hebrews in Late Ancient Heresiology.” I also received the Manfred Lautenschlaeger Award for Theological Promise from the Forschungszentrum Internationale und Interdisziplinäre Theologie at the Universität Heidelberg for *Eusebius the Evangelist*.

The most important result of the past academic year has been finding a tenure-track job. Starting in September 2022, I will be Assistant Professor of New Testament at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, CA.



Hila Dayfani

This year I was a Junior Research Fellow at the Oriel Centre for the Study of the Bible, mentored by Prof. Hindy Najman. During this year, I significantly grew as a scholar, and I am very grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this intellectual community. I presented my research on the Samaritan Pentateuch in a lecture series. I wrote an article entitled “4QpaleoExodm and the Gerizim composition” that was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Biblical Literature*. I also successfully published my work on new identifications of 4Q11’s fragments in *Revue de Qumran*. Additional paper on the Samaritan Pentateuch and Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible is forthcoming in *The Oxford Handbook of the Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*. This spring I have also submitted one more article for review. Further, I have received a research grant from the Jewish Memorial Foundation.



My research was enormously influenced by my discussions with Prof. Najman on literary and historical questions of the textual and hermeneutical formation of scriptural traditions in the ancient world. Prof. Najman also generously connected me with Prof. Eibert Tigchelaar, who specialises in the study of the Dead Sea Scrolls. My meeting and discussions with Prof. Tigchelaar enriched my work. In Trinity Term, the Hebrew Bible and Early Interpretation seminars focused on the Pentateuch. This program was very relevant to my work. The seminars were an opportunity for me to learn from leading scholars of the Pentateuch, and the following discussions were rich and allowed for dialogue between different points of view. My stay in Oxford allowed me to meet with scholars from all over the world, discuss our shared interests, and to consider future collaborations.

Dorota Molin

When I took up my lectureship in Biblical Hebrew at Oxford a year ago, I could not have anticipated all the different ways in which I benefited from the Centre for the Study of the Bible. From the start, I began attending and contributing to the Biblical Hebrew reading group alongside my own teaching in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. I also occasionally participated in the Centre’s seminars. The breadth of the seminars’ topics which spanned historical philology, hermeneutics, theology and comparative religion stretched me, encouraging me to further contextualize my own knowledge. The Centre’s interdisciplinary environment naturally also attracts scholars from a host of related yet distinct fields. Interacting with them offered me a highly organic form of networking, centred on shared interests. Such interactions also foster a strong collaborative community, in which new projects and ideas have begun to emerge. For instance, I was asked to contribute to a colleague’s monograph on the Hebrew Bible material in a late antique magic corpus (coming out in July 2022). Moreover, with my training in historical linguistics and language typology, in my own presentations, I was able to offer nuanced accounts of linguistic phenomena in Hebrew, for instance by showing relatable, cross-linguistic parallels. I also gave a paper at the workshop on ancient magic (October 2021). My presentation showed empirical evidence for the oral dimension of Bible transmission in Late Antiquity, problematizing the notion of the Hebrew Bible as a written corpus only.



Dorota Molin is a Lecturer in Biblical Hebrew Language at Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Oxford, and a member of the Centre for the Study of the Bible at Oriel College. She is also a researcher at Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Cambridge, working on an ERC project. Her current research concerns the shared folklore of Muslims, Christians and Jews of northern Iraq, Neo-Aramaic linguistics, and the transmission of the Hebrew Bible in the pre-Masoretic period.



Hakseo Kim

Being at Oxford, I can say that Oxford is genuinely the best place to develop thoughts. This is not because Oxford is one of the best educational institutes in the world but rather because the scholarly community led by Prof. Najman has made this thought possible.



I have been thinking I am participating in the re-presentation of the process of making the Bible as the biblical authors did. I am amazed to find that another student thinks similarly: The students think they are making a history like the biblical authors did. It is interesting to see that, despite different research focuses, students under the supervision of Prof. Najman naturally begin to share the same foundational thinking.

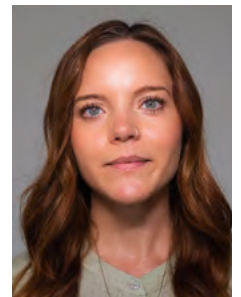
This year, I passed Confirmation and completed the faculty teacher training. I also joined the “Kings Seminar”, to which I was introduced by Professor Najman. This recently launched group is made up of international scholars and researchers of the Books of Kings, and has held two meetings so far. Since the seminar deals with all research areas of Kings, I expect to present my work here, as I did in Early Biblical Interpretation last December. The *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* has invited me to write a review for a recently published commentary of Kings. I am grateful for this opportunity to demonstrate that I have developed the critical eye necessary for reviewing such commentaries, and to review

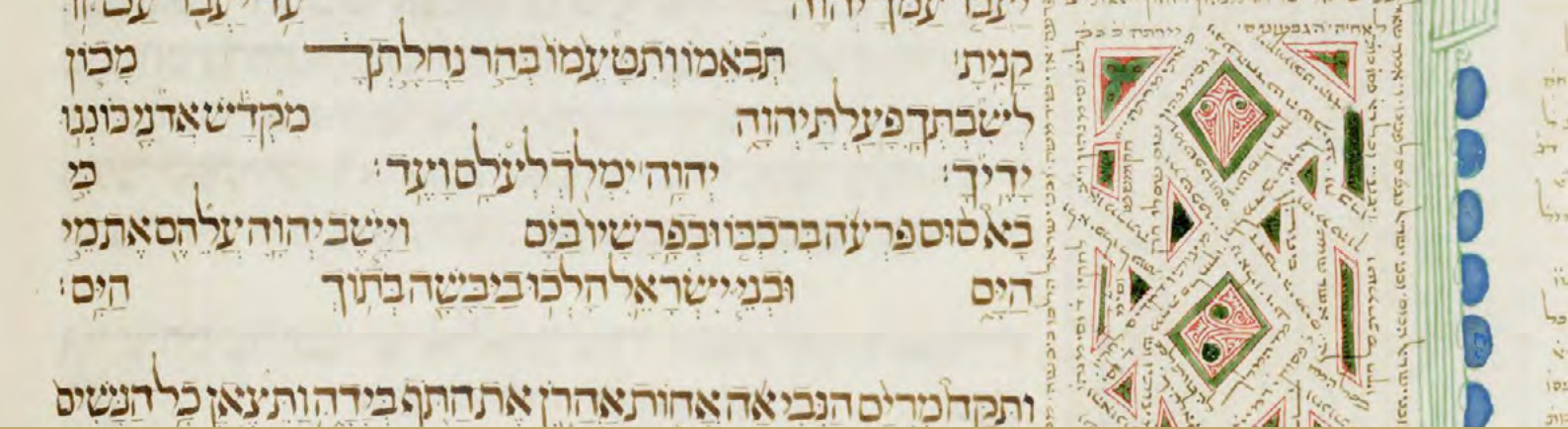
scholarship for a renowned scholarly journal by their own invitation. After finishing this review, I intend to submit further articles based on content that has not been used within my final project.

After talks with the Old Testament professor in Yonsei University, from which I received my Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees, I am due to take up a position as research assistant at a research institute under the School of Theology. The institute focuses on studying the interactions between Korean culture and Christianity, and its director is interested in memory studies. I thus expect and anticipate the development and deployment of my transferable skills during this position.

Shannon Parrott

This has been an incredible year for me. I presented at conferences, had an article published and another accepted; I made many applications and moved along several interview processes (Oxford and Cambridge) though to no avail. I defended my doctorate and passed, I have spent two months in Munich and have received some funding for a post doc that I will do in Munich. I have felt so supported by Professor Najman and my peers. I am very grateful.





Daniele Minisini

I was a Junior Visiting Scholar at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish studies from January 16th, 2022 to July 16th, 2022. While in Oxford I attended various activities and seminars of both the OCHJS and Centre for the Study of the Bible and kept working on my project on Enochic literature. Specifically, I analysed the Aramaic manuscript evidence of Enochic literature in the Second Temple period and the Greek witnesses to the same texts in order to problematize and question the notions of Enochic Pentateuch and Enochic Judaism and explored the sources of authority and the authority conferring strategies within the Enochic texts. Partial results of this research flowed into an Italian article entitled “Can we really talk about Enochic Judaism? Reflections on the margins of a problematic historiographical category”. I also presented a paper entitled “Heavenly Revelation and Universalism: Jewish Apocalypticism between Cosmology, Anthropology and Eschatology” during the conference “Between Alexandria and Rome,” organized by Sapienza University of Rome and the Pontifical Gregorian University. Finally, I organized and participated as a speaker in a seminar launching a recent volume on John the Baptist by Federico Adinolfi and wrote on “Divine Right” for a forthcoming lexicon of metapolitics. While pursuing my research on Enochic literature, I also continued to work on my doctoral dissertation entitled “The Preaching of John the Baptist: Historical-

critical study in light of the Book of Enoch's Parables” in order to propose the work for publication.

As a result of my presence at Oxford, I have been awarded the EABS Travel Grants to attend the EABS Annual Conference in Toulouse, 4th-7th July 2022 (where I presented a paper entitled “Is the Book of Parables a Sapiential Text?”) and the EAJJS Travel and Accommodation Bursary to attend the Eighteenth World Congress of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, August 8th-12th 2022 (where I will present a paper on John the Baptist).

I felt privileged to be a part of the Centre for the Study of the Bible and therefore would really like to thank Prof. Hindy Najman, for the continuous solicitations, insights, and all of her work to support me in Oxford.

My experience at Oxford helped me question many of my assumptions about Second Temple Judaism and broaden and refine my research methodology. Being able to be part of such a vibrant and active community has constantly exposed me to fresh inspiration and insights, and my future research will only benefit from this incredible opportunity.

My stay at the University of Oxford was funded for six months by the University of Rome - La Sapienza, which recognized the unique value that a period of research at Oxford could provide.

“Being able to be part of such a vibrant and active community has constantly exposed me to fresh inspiration and insights, and my future research will only benefit from this incredible opportunity.”

- Daniele Minisini



Simone Landman

During the last year I have continued to strengthen my language skills (mainly Hebrew this year) and have learned a great deal from the wide variety of seminars and lectures I have attended. The professionalization sessions have been very helpful for my future and intellectually, I especially grew a lot during the Monotheism conference and the seminars on Comparative Philology as well as Reading the Pentateuch. These are the grants and awards that I currently hold:



Faculty award 2020 from the Faculty of Philosophy, Theology, and Religious Studies of the Radboud University. Every three years, this prize is awarded to a student who has performed excellently regarding responsibility, quality, and involvement in the faculty.

Scholarships received for MPhil Theology in Oxford:

- 15,000 from the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds
- 10,000 from the VSB fonds
- 4,000 from the Hendrik Mullerfonds

Phillip Lasater

My research and teaching have benefited greatly from the Centre's rigorous, intentional integration of Hebrew Bible scholarship with the humanities. There is always an openness toward careful reflection as well as reconsideration of "settled" matters in biblical studies. I have been able to teach at the Hebrew reading group; work closely with masters and DPhil students; lead discussion about the state of our research field; pursue integration with legal studies and legal anthropology; and present research at an interdisciplinary workshop: "The Formation of the Subject." I think this framework has improved my own research on legal anthropologies in the Hebrew Bible and the Dead Sea Scrolls. I find that it even impacts how I conceive of tutorials for undergraduate students, which I am convinced helps them develop a richer understanding of the Bible's place in a wider disciplinary context. I very much look forward to continuing my work in Theology and Religion and the Centre for the Study of the Bible.



"My research and teaching have benefited greatly from the Centre's rigorous, intentional integration of Hebrew Bible scholarship with the humanities."

- Phillip Lasater



Cian Power

In the academic year 2021-22, the community of Hebrew Bible scholarship at Oxford has thrived, and I have been glad to be a part of it as lecturer in Ancient Hebrew language.



I have continued to develop the three-year Biblical Hebrew programme for undergraduates at the Faculty of Theology and Religion, including implementing lessons learned from the switch to online learning in the introductory course; tightly integrating the intermediate course into other Hebrew Bible offerings in the department; and, in the final year, using biblical texts to introduce students to major issues in the study of Hebrew. Enrollments have increased significantly. In addition, teaching new texts to postgraduate students (Lamentations, Song of Songs), provided the opportunity to train them in major methods in biblical research, such as historical linguistics, textual criticism, feminist criticism, and metaphor theory.

My teaching has been greatly enriched by my collaboration with the Centre for the Study of the Bible, as has the students' experience. I attend as many of the Centre's seminars as I can and take the opportunity to learn of advances in scholarship from eminent visiting speakers. I am frequently able to link issues I cover in class with my students to these seminar presentations, to demonstrate the applicability and relevance of what we are learning.

My own contributions to the work of the Centre include assisting doctoral students who are preparing to lead sessions of the Biblical Hebrew Reading Group; I not only help them

understand difficult Hebrew words and forms, but guide them in the pedagogical matters of how to structure their sessions and how to pose and respond to questions about language. More broadly within the subject area of Hebrew Bible, I have worked closely with new colleagues in Theology and Religion and in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (Oriental Studies) to orient them to teaching and examining at Oxford, and we have shared valuable insights about our approaches to teaching Hebrew.

In this supportive context I have also been able to undertake my own research. This year I have completed a monograph on the significance of linguistic diversity in the Hebrew Bible, which is being published in a specialist Hebrew Bible series (FAT 2, Mohr Siebeck). I am preparing a paper on the use of a particular metaphor (ripping/tearing) in biblical historiography, to be presented at the major annual conference in the field of biblical studies (SBL/AAR) later in the year. The Centre for the Study of the Bible has been instrumental to this work; when I led a session of the Biblical Hebrew Reading Group on a selection of relevant texts, the discussion with the group of students and junior and senior scholars was extremely productive and led me to new insights and a better understanding of the texts.

“It is quite literally inspirational and we owe a great deal to Professor Najman for her leadership and for the community she has fostered.”

- Cian Power



Wenyue Qiang

This academic year I have learned a lot. First of all, in terms of the project, I submitted the transfer and gained a lot from the process. The critical feedback is very helpful for me to reconstruct better arguments, work



on the inconsistencies in the essay, refine the details and reformulate the research methods and questions. During this process, my supervisor, Professor Najman, also provided very insightful comments, which helped me to gain a better understanding of hermeneutics and philology, and rethink the methods to do textual research. At the beginning of the academic year, through presenting my paper in the workshop, I had lively discussions with colleagues and received very constructive opinions and perspectives with regard to the essay as well as the research. In terms of the seminars and classes, I have benefited greatly from the various series of seminars despite limitations of the remote online learning. Particularly the Pentateuchal studies in the Trinity Term contributes to deepening the thinking towards my own research. The interdisciplinary perspectives, themes and research methods further facilitated my understanding of biblical studies. I also worked on Greek and Ethiopic through the reading group on Philo and language classes.

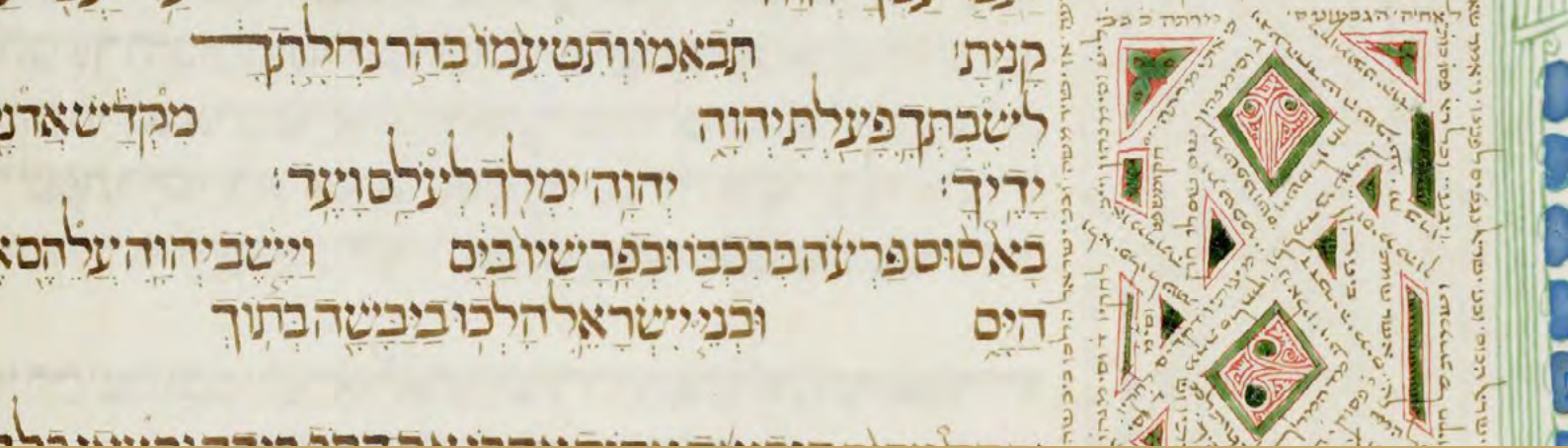
Elizabeth Stell

I began this academic year by submitting a portion of my dissertation for Confirmation of Status which I was delighted to pass. The interview and written feedback taught me a lot and has deepened my understanding of the project. Across the year I have learned from attending numerous seminars ranging from commentary to Pentateuch. These allowed me to engage with a wider range of work beyond the scope of my research but which nonetheless informs both my research and my teaching. I have continued to grow my strengths as a teacher across the year, teaching tutorials focussing on the Abraham cycle, early Judaism, and narrative texts of the Hebrew Bible. I have also had opportunities to present my work across the year, including virtually at SBL, in the Hebrew Bible Seminar at Cambridge University, and I am preparing a paper for a conference on Visuality and Hellenistic Judaism. Recently, I was also able to submit an article for publication, incorporating both my current research and material from my Master's thesis. Finishing the year, I am writing the final chapter of my thesis and hope to be able to submit my work in the autumn.



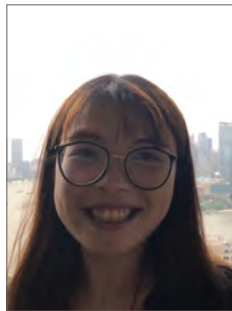
“I have learned so much from Professor Najman about the Hebrew Bible, but equally as much about compassion, principle, encouragement, and leadership. And that goodness is not hers alone. The community here – both the other professors and especially my fellow students – the community has been supportive and kind”

- Hans Decker, Candidate for DPhil in Theology



Jiani Sun

This is my first in-person year at Oxford. I am very grateful for the manifold opportunities that Prof. Najman kindly provided. I got a solid exposure to a wide range of scholarship in the Hebrew Bible and beyond, particularly Pentateuchal scholarship. Many interdisciplinary seminars run by Prof. Najman and others are helpful for my intellectual growth in one way or another. In these seminars, I learned to phrase well-thought questions and from other people's thoughts and comments.



I am also grateful for the many opportunities to talk and converse with scholars in the field. Prof. Najman generously hosted many social events after seminars and workshops, which creates many wonderful networking opportunities for the students. In these informal conversations, I had the chance to share my research and received some reaction and feedback from different interlocutors.

During this year, I sense my biblical Hebrew is getting stronger, as I feel much more comfortable with pronunciation, reading, and translating. The Hebrew instructions that I have received this year are beneficial to the growth in my linguistic abilities. In the meantime, I continue to sharpen my Greek skills by going to the Philo reading group.

Things that I have accomplished this year:
Passing transfer after the second attempt;
Poster Presentation at Oxbridge Day; Teaching at the Biblical Hebrew Reading Group.

Grant: Knapp Family Foundation

Rebekah Van Sant

This year I have passed my Confirmation of Status, and I will write two chapters for two edited volumes based on material from my thesis. I also have recently been awarded the AJS Dissertation Completion Fellowship for my final year of the DPhil. For the first three years of my DPhil, I was a recipient of the Knapp Foundation Bursary. I have also had the opportunity to present my work at a joint conference, which I helped to organize, between Oxford University and the Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. I also had the pleasure to present work based on my thesis at BIAJS and, later on this year, I will present at SBL.



I have done a variety of teaching this year on the poetic texts of the Hebrew Bible and on the topic of gender and power in biblical texts. The teaching has helped me to develop both as a scholar and as an educator and deepened my knowledge of these subjects greatly. I have found the seminars this year have helped me to refine my own work, but they have also given me inspiration for new avenues of research. The breadth of the seminars has been beneficial to me in that several have an interdisciplinary aspect which has given me a broader perspective on approaches I can employ in my own work. Trinity term's Hebrew Bible seminars on the theme of Pentateuchal studies have potentially helped to locate other areas of research I am interested in, as well as methodologies for that research. Additionally, we have had a few special seminar sessions that enable us to reflect on the seminars themselves and discuss them with lecturers and professors - this has been enormously informative.



Sarah Wisialowski

The 2021-2022 academic year has been a very productive year for me. In Michaelmas term, I taught my first Hebrew class to other postgraduate students and faculty members, and presented material in a Writer's Workshop. I



also successfully passed my Transfer of Status at the end of Michaelmas term. During Hilary term, I applied for and was accepted to three international conferences that will take place over the summer and autumn 2022. I have also received grants to attend the two summer conferences, and I am in the midst of applying for grants for the autumn conference.

At the beginning of Trinity term, I co-organised the annual Oxbridge Biblical Studies Conference hosted in Cambridge, and gave a paper at said conference. The conference itself ran smoothly, and my paper was well-received by my peers and other scholars. I started teaching my own tutorials in Trinity term as well, teaching two students their Judaism tutorials for their Religion & Religions paper. I also started working as a Research Assistant to a Fellow and Lecturer in Modern Judaism, learning how to prepare a book for publishing and working through book lists for undergraduates. Lastly, I was just awarded an annual scholarship from Oriel College due to excellence in my work. Overall, this past academic year has set me with new challenges that I have worked through and over come. I feel more than prepared to enter into my third year of the DPhil for the 2022-2023 year.

“The Centre, and that is to undoubtedly say, Professor Najman, is the life force that keeps all of us moving. Just like the texts we study, she too, is vital for the renewal of our scholarship, but also for this community. I would not be the scholar that I am today without Professor Najman, because she has helped shape my scholarship in such a meaningful way, and has taken care and attention to my project, as a supervisor and mentor more generally. I know that the other postgraduates feel the same and so we thank you, Professor Najman for your generosity and care that enters every facet of Hebrew Bible at Oxford.”

- Sarah Wisialowski

Daniel Waller

I co-organized a successful online conference in October 2021, Magical and Literary Enchantment in the Ancient World Workshop, which had between 70-100 attendees throughout the day. Such experiences, facilitated and encouraged by the Centre for the Study of the Bible and the way it is structured, have contributed to a strong growth in confidence and experience as an academic.





Hans Decker

Hans Decker is a student of Professor Hindy Najman. He recently defended his dissertation entitled, "Making Books Without End: Anthology and Generative Rereading in the Wisdom Tradition," which focuses on developing new literary and cultural approaches to biblical wisdom sayings. His research interests include poetics, interpretation, narratology, cultural criticism, and tradition.



He is the author of a refereed article, "Anthology as Intertext: Ambiguity and Generative Interpretation in Qohelet," in *Second Wave Intertextuality and the Hebrew Bible*. Society of Biblical Literature (Atlanta, SBL Press, 2019), and has given numerous research papers at the Society of Biblical Literature annual meetings and at the British Association for Jewish Studies, and also presented papers at subject area research seminars at leading universities.

Following the completion of his doctoral degree, Dr Decker was accepted as a postdoctoral researcher at Universität Zürich where he is now continuing his research.

When he is not immersed in his studies, he enjoys exploring the outdoors with his wife and three children. He is also a commissioned officer in the military reserves where he serves as a chaplain.

Yovella Ball

Yovella is a second year MPhil in Hebrew Bible, researching the use of the female body and erotic trauma in poetic, prophetic, and wisdom texts. She is interested in philology, gender, and the study of poetics.



Harald Samuel

Dr Harald Samuel, Lecturer in Classical Hebrew at FAMES, joined the University of Oxford (and the Centre) in October 2021. Dr. Samuel's research interests range from the History of the Hebrew Language to Pentateuchal scholarship, and eventually the history of scholarship in the modern period. He has taught a variety of courses on the History of Ancient Israel and Judah, the History of the Hebrew Language, Northwest Semitic inscriptions, as well as a selection of texts from the Hebrew Bible and the Dead Sea Scrolls. Having actively contributed to the BHGR and the HB/OT seminar, Dr Samuel enjoyed teaching students at all levels and conducted several confirmations for DPhil students. As a last part of a conference series Dr Samuel co-organised the 4th workshop on "Book-seams in the Hexateuch" in March (in Kiel/Germany). Invited research papers led him to Beer Sheva, London, and to Košice in Slovakia. The publication of his Habilitationsschrift is in preparation, his most recent publication is "Schriftwerdung – Kritische Anmerkungen zum Verhältnis von Text-, Literatur- und Sprachgeschichte" in the proceedings of the XVIIth European Congress for Theology, Zurich 2021.



Stefania Beitia

Stefania has been working for the Oriel Centre for the Study of the Bible since March 2019 as an administrator and as the PA for the Director, Professor Hindy Najman.



Shortly after completing her Politics, Philosophy and Economics degree she moved to the United Kingdom and joined Oxford.

She also has a strong interest in theology and languages.





Professor Hindy Najman

Oriel and Laing Professor of the
Interpretation of Holy Scripture

Director of the Oriel Centre for
the Study of the Bible

*For more information or to set up a meeting
with Professor Najman, please contact:*

Stefania Beitia

Assistant to the Director & Administrator of
the Centre for the Study of the Bible

stefania.beitia@oriel.ox.ac.uk