

2024 MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING FOR BIBLICAL STUDIES

March 15–17, 2024

Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame (South Bend), Indiana

We are pleased to invite you to the 2024 Midwest Regional Meeting for Biblical Studies. This conference is an exciting cooperative initiative of the Chicago Society of Biblical Research (CSBR), the Catholic Biblical Association (CBA), and the Michigan Center for Early Christian Studies (MCECS). The meeting is scheduled for **Friday–Sunday, March 15–17, 2024**, at Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame (South Bend), Indiana. The Student Religious Studies Conference (SRSC) will occur in conjunction with the Midwest Regional Meeting on Friday, March 15. No society memberships are required to participate in this meeting.

The meeting has arranged for blocks of hotel rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn South Bend and the Inn at Saint Mary's, both of which are adjacent to the Saint Mary's College campus. The conference rate is available until **February 15, 2024**, and reservations must be placed by phone (Hilton Garden Inn: 574-232-7700; Inn at Saint Mary's: 574-232-4000). Please mention the "SMC Midwest Regional Meeting." There are many additional hotel options available within a fifteen minute drive of St. Mary's. For maps and transportation information, click <https://www.saintmarys.edu/admission-aid/visit-campus/maps-directions>.

We invite you to **submit paper proposals for the regional meeting by Monday, January 8, 2024**. (The SRSC has a different schedule for proposals than the regional meeting; see below.) Program decisions will be communicated on or about February 1, 2024. Please see the section descriptions document at the CSBR website (<https://chicagosbr.org>) for additional information on proposals and the various program units. Paper proposals should be submitted online: <https://tinyurl.com/493nnwty>. Please do not send paper proposals to section chairs. **Usually, papers are scheduled in thirty-minute time slots, ideally with twenty minutes of presentation and ten minutes of discussion.**

Registration for the meeting is available online through Zeffy at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/fda84491-5454-4bcd-bc2f-fed48f920c71>. Please note that any donation added during the registration process goes to Zeffy, not to the Midwest Regional Meeting, and is completely optional. Zeffy does not charge the Midwest Regional Meeting any fees of any sort for the registration module, and their own funding comes through donations. **Regular registration is available through February 17, 2024, and all presenters are required to be registered by this date.** The region offers regular registration for \$60, retiree registration for \$30, student registration for \$25, and SRSC-only registration for \$15. Rates for spouse/partner attendees are also available in the registration process. We strongly encourage everyone to utilize the online registration option; a \$25 fee will be added for late/on-site registrations.

Schedule Highlights for the 2024 Meeting

The meeting will include the kinds of sessions familiar from previous years, but the scheduling of featured events will differ in some cases.

Friday Evening Midwest Regional Spotlight

This session, now in its eleventh year, features a presentation and question-and-answer period with a prominent scholar from our region. Our speaker this year is **Stacy Davis**, Professor of Religious Studies and Theology and of Gender and Women's Studies, St. Mary's College.

Sunday Morning Plenary Book Panel Session

The book panel will focus on the new volume, *The Closed Book: How the Rabbis Taught the Jews (Not) to Read the Bible*, by **Rebecca Scharbach Wollenberg**, Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies, University of Michigan.

Graduate Student Paper Awards

Graduate students who submit a paper for presentation at the Midwest Regional Meeting are invited also to submit their paper for consideration for the Graduate Student Paper Award, which is sponsored by the Michigan Center for Early Christian Studies. Two prizes will be awarded—one for Hebrew Bible/Early Judaism and one for New Testament/Early Christianity. Winners will be recognized at the Friday evening regional spotlight session.

Papers in the form they are to be presented should be submitted by email to Jeffrey Stackert (stackert@uchicago.edu) no later than February 17, 2024.

Other Programs

Student Religious Studies Conference:

The SRSC, now in its fifteenth year, meets during the day on Friday, March 15, 2024, and concludes before the opening session of the regional meeting that evening. The conference provides an excellent opportunity for students to present their work and network with people from other institutions and program levels. Please encourage your students (undergraduate through pre-dissertation doctoral) to present papers at this conference on topics spanning Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, New Testament, Second Temple and rabbinic Judaism, patristics and early Christianity, theology, historical studies, and comparative religions. **Proposals are due by February 5, 2024**, and must include the full paper. Proposals may be submitted here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1hi4-3B3MJY9ZgSdM7SfBBIkcvZGelnApMte2JavK4W8/edit>. Questions may be directed to Lauren O'Connell, the SRSC coordinator, at loconnell1@luc.edu.

These meetings offer a wonderful opportunity to meet new colleagues, see old friends, try out research ideas, and enjoy a lively exchange in a friendly environment. All students, professors, and others interested in biblical studies and the study of the ancient world are welcome. Please feel free to contact us at the e-mail address below with any questions.

Sincerely,

Mark Lester & Jeffrey Stackert
Program Co-coordinators, Midwest Regional Meeting for Biblical Studies
mlester2011@gmail.com
stackert@uchicago.edu

2024 MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING FOR BIBLICAL STUDIES

March 15–17, 2024

Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame (South Bend), Indiana

The 2024 Midwest Regional Meeting for Biblical Studies offers ten program units spanning the broad range of biblical studies and related fields. This conference is an exciting initiative of the Chicago Society of Biblical Research (CSBR) and the Catholic Biblical Association (CBA).

All paper proposals must be submitted by January 8, 2024, through the online form at <https://tinyurl.com/493nnwtv>.

The form system will generate an automated e-mail confirmation message when the proposal is submitted. Please contact one of the program coordinators (Mark Lester: mlester2011@gmail.com; Jeffrey Stackert: stackert@uchicago.edu) if you submit a proposal but do not receive a confirmation message.

Proposals include the paper title and a 100-word paragraph abstract. Abstracts will be printed in the conference program and for that reason may not exceed 100 words. **Papers that are accepted for the program will be scheduled in thirty-minute slots, ideally with twenty minutes for presentation and ten minutes for discussion.**

E-mail addresses for the section chairs are included with the section descriptions below. Please contact the appropriate chair if you have *questions* about the section and its program, but you should **submit all proposals through the online form**. Please contact the program coordinators if you are uncertain about the best section to which to submit your proposal.

A person may submit one proposal to present one paper, and the same paper may not be submitted to multiple sections. Usually, graduate students who present at the Midwest Regional Meeting should be enrolled in doctoral programs. Other students should see the information below about the Student Religious Studies Conference (SRSC). Student papers that cannot be included in the Midwest Regional Meeting program will be referred to the SRSC.

All proposals for the Midwest Regional Meeting must be submitted by January 8, 2024. Program decisions will be communicated on or about February 1, 2024. Presenters must be registered for the Midwest Regional Meeting by February 17, 2024.

If you are a professor, please encourage your doctoral students to participate in the Midwest Regional Meeting. Please also encourage your students who are undergraduates through pre-dissertation doctoral students to participate in the **Student Religious Studies Conference (SRSC)** on Friday, March 15, 2024.

Details for both programs are available at the Chicago Society of Biblical Research website (<https://chicagosbr.org>). For SRSC questions, please contact the SRSC coordinator, Lauren O'Connell, at loconnell1@luc.edu. The SRSC proposal deadline (with full paper) is February 5, 2024. Proposals may be submitted here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1hi4-3B3MJY9ZgSdM7SfBBIkcvZGelnApMte2JavK4W8/edit>.

* * * *

APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE: This section invites presentations on Jewish and Christian apocalypses and related literature, both canonical and non-canonical, from the “dawn of Apocalyptic” through the early Christian church. We also encourage papers that deal with later appropriations of ancient texts (sort of “Reception History” of apocalyptic themes), including contemporary re-use of ancient Apocalyptic imagery and ideas. For questions, please contact Edmondo Lupieri (elupier@luc.edu), with “MWRMBS” as subject.

BIBLICAL GREEK LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS: Advances in linguistics continue to have relevance and implications for Biblical Greek studies. Likewise, given that biblical scholars work with ancient texts and languages, they are uniquely situated to offer insights to those in the field of linguistics and language study. As such, this session highlights studies focused on the linguistic dimensions and/or language-based features of Biblical Greek texts. Topics related to phonology, morphology, syntax, discourse, and pragmatics, among related topics, are welcome for submission. Please direct questions to Fredrick Long (fredrick.long@asburyseminary.edu) and/or James Sedlacek (sedlacekj@hotmail.com).

EARLY CHRISTIAN GOSPELS: The aim of this section is: (1) to encourage scholarly investigation of the NT and extra-canonical gospels; (2) to support scholars by providing an annual forum for critical discussion of their work; and, (3) to promote discussion of a wide range of gospel topics for the benefit of all. In 2024, this section will be dedicated to any new work that scholars in the region wish to bring forward. All proposals must be submitted through the online system. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact D. Dale Walker (d.dale.walker@gmail.com) or Clare K. Rothschild (ckrothschild@gmail.com).

EARLY CHRISTIANITY: ACTS, APOSTOLIC FATHERS, AND PATRISTICS: The scope of this section includes the canonical Acts of the Apostles and the extra-canonical texts from the Apostolic Fathers through the third century CE. The session(s) this year will be general, so all topics will be considered. Please direct any questions to both co-chairs, Nancy Pardee (npardee@uchicago.edu) and Chris Shea (cshea@bsu.edu).

HEBREW BIBLE: This section welcomes proposals on any facet of the Hebrew Bible, including its composition, cultural context, language, genres, thematics, and history of interpretation. For this year’s meeting, we will be organizing both open sessions and one thematic session, focused on Persian period Judean texts, history, and religion. For any inquiries, please contact Mark Lester (mlester2011@gmail.com) or Jeffrey Stackert (stackert@uchicago.edu).

HEBREWS AND CATHOLIC EPISTLES: The unit invites proposals on any topics related to Hebrews and the Catholic Epistles. Please contact Eric F. Mason (ericfmason@gmail.com) with any questions.

PAULINE LITERATURE: Proposals on any topic dealing with Paul or the Pauline letter corpus are also welcome. For more information, please contact P. Richard Choi (choir@andrews.edu) or Troy W. Martin (martin@sxu.edu).

SECOND TEMPLE JUDAISM: This section seeks to explore the linguistic, poetic, intellectual, ritual, theological, and cultural breadth of Jewish literature and material culture during the Second Temple period. We invite papers for several open sessions on Jewish texts and material culture written and produced between the postexilic era and the early Roman imperial period. The section welcomes proposals that examine Jewish literature written in Hebrew and Aramaic, inclusive of postexilic biblical texts and the Dead Sea Scrolls, as well as Jewish thinkers writing in Greek. We also invite studies of material culture relevant for understanding Second Temple Judaism.

In addition to our open sessions, we will host a Second Temple Judaism Seminar on Sunday, March 17, with a pre-circulated paper and discussion. Alexei Sivertsev (DePaul) will present a paper entitled, “An Urban Text: The Letter of Aristeas and the Invention of Jerusalem's Topography in the Hellenistic Period.” Malka Simkovich (CTU) will give a formal response, followed by open discussion. All are welcome! To receive the pre-circulated paper or for other inquiries, email Olivia Stewart Lester (ostewartlester@luc.edu) or Scott Harris (saharris@knox.edu).

TEACHING THE BIBLE WITH POPULAR CULTURE: Teaching the Bible to a largely secular or “spiritual but not religious” classroom has been an on-going challenge. Pandemic calls for racial justice and equity have indelibly changed the student body and heightened the call for instructors to be even more creative in thinking of ways to adapt their curriculum. Using popular culture—film, television, literature, art, music, web content, and other forms of media—is one important way to connect the Bible with the lives of our students.

We will accept papers with any topic. The goal of the section is to create shareable, practical ideas that can be adapted to many different types of classrooms and classroom dynamics. Please contact Lauren O’Connell (loconnell1@luc.edu) or Teresa Calpino (Tcalpin@luc.edu) with any questions.

TEXTUAL CRITICISM AND POPYROLOGY: This section invites presentations that examine ancient writing materials and the history of manuscript transmission as well as studies that help understand text types, variants, corruption, and adaptation of the texts in relation to Jewish, Christian, and Greco-Roman social and religious contexts. We encourage proposals addressing the value and challenges of comparing manuscripts and the strengths and weaknesses of the existing comparative tools. Other topics are also welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Sylvie Raquel at sraquel@tiu.edu.