

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>.

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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.