

Debra Scoggins Ballentine
Department of Religion, Rutgers
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EDUCATION

2012 PhD, Religious Studies, Brown University
2007 MA, Religious Studies, Brown University
2003 MA, Religion, University of Georgia
2001 BA, Major: Religion; Minors: Anthropology, Biology, University of Georgia

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2012-present Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, Rutgers
2010 Instructor, Brown University Continuing Education
2006-2010 Graduate Student Instructor, Brown University
2004 Instructor, University of Georgia
2002-2003 Graduate Student Instructor, University of Georgia

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Hebrew Bible
Ancient Israelite and Judean History and Religions
Ancient West Asian Literatures
Mythmaking in the Ancient World
Violence in Biblical Traditions
History of Interpretation of the Hebrew Bible
Early Jewish and Early Christian Exegesis
Second Temple Judaism
Hebrew and Northwest Semitic Languages

LANGUAGES

Ancient Languages

Hebrew (biblical, Qumran, Rabbinic), Aramaic, Ugaritic, Akkadian, Greek, Latin
Rudimentary reading: Syriac, Ge'ez, Phoenician

Modern Languages

Reading Proficiency: French, German, modern Hebrew
Rudimentary reading: Spanish, Italian

PUBLICATIONS

Book

The Conflict Myth and the Biblical Tradition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015.

Chapters in Collected Volumes

“Violence and the Bible.” *The Cambridge World History of Violence, Volume 1: The Prehistoric and Ancient Worlds*. Edited by Linda Fibiger, Garrett G. Fagan, and Mark Hudson. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, in production.

“Israelite Religion in its Syro-Canaanite Context.” *The Oxford Handbook of Religions in the Ancient Near East*. Edited by Tawny Holm. Oxford University Press, in production.

“What Ends Might Ritual Violence Accomplish?: The Case of Rachab and Baanah in 2 Samuel 4.” Pages 9-26 in *Ritual Violence in the Hebrew Bible: New Perspectives*. Edited by Saul M. Olyan. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015.

“Revising a Myth: The Targum of Psalm 74 and the Exodus Tradition.” Pages 107-118 in *The One Who Sows Bountifully: Essays in Honor of Stanley K. Stowers*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2013.

Encyclopedia Entries

“Ephraim” in *The Routledge Dictionary of Ancient Mediterranean Religions*. Edited by E. Orlin, L. Fried, N. Denzey Lewis, M. Satlow. New York: Routledge, 2016.

“Hannah” in *The Routledge Dictionary of Ancient Mediterranean Religions*. Edited by E. Orlin, L. Fried, N. Denzey Lewis, M. Satlow. New York: Routledge, 2016.

“Jonah” in *The Routledge Dictionary of Ancient Mediterranean Religions*. Edited by E. Orlin, L. Fried, N. Denzey Lewis, M. Satlow. New York: Routledge, 2016.

“Obadiah” in *The Routledge Dictionary of Ancient Mediterranean Religions*. Edited by E. Orlin, L. Fried, N. Denzey Lewis, M. Satlow. New York: Routledge, 2016.

“Baal” in *Bible Odyssey* (www.bibleodyssey.org). Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2014. (peer reviewed)

“The Kingdom of Judah” in *Bible Odyssey* (www.bibleodyssey.org). Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2014. (peer reviewed)

Book Reviews

“Review of Brian R. Doak, *The Last of the Rephaim: Conquest and Cataclysm in the Heroic Ages of Ancient Israel*.” *Review of Biblical Literature*, 09 (2016).

“Review of Gregory Mobley, *The Return of the Chaos Monsters—And Other Backstories of the Bible*.” *Review of Biblical Literature*, under contract.

“Review of Dexter Callender, ed., *Myth and Scripture*.” *Review of Biblical Literature*, under contract.

In progress, tentative titles

“The (Mis)Foreignization Problem in Biblical Studies.” submitted to the *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions*

“Smiting in the Fifth [Rib]: How a Peculiar Phrase for Assassination Elucidates a Text Critical Question.” for submission to the *Journal of Biblical Literature*

“The Vocabulary of Violence in Biblical Narratives.” for submission to the *Journal of Ancient Judaism*

“*Shēdīm*: Shades of Difference Between ‘Demons’ and God(s).” for submission to the *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions*

“The Feast Trap Motif in Ancient Near Eastern Literature.” for submission to the *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Society*

“Translating ‘Monotheism’: How Theological Paradigms Shape Biblical Translations.” for submission to *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions*

“*So Says the Lord, ‘I Am Against You’*”: *Competing Theological Apologies in Ancient Near Eastern Discourse on Political Disasters*. book proposal for submission to an academic press

CONFERENCE PAPERS

2017 “‘They Smote Him in the Fifth’: The Rhetorical Work of an Uncommon Phrase in 2 Samuel,” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Boston, MA, November 18-21

2017 “Exile and Return of the First Temple Vessels: Claims of Continuity after Disruption within Post-exilic Competition,” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Boston, MA, November 18-21

2017 Panel member for “Session 2: The Tenure Track Position - What You Should Know and What I Wish I Had Known,” 2017 Brandeis-Brown-Harvard-Yale Day for Hebrew Bible, Brown University, April 7 (invited)

2016 Response to Elizabeth Bloch-Smith, "Building a Back-story: Archaeology and the Crafting of Israel's Conquest Narratives," Princeton Theological Seminary Old Testament Research Colloquium, Princeton, NJ, October 18 (invited)

2016 "Violence and the Bible," Conference on the World History of Violence, Rome, June 20-22 (invited)

2016 Panel member for "Online Teaching," RU Online Learning Conference Mid-Atlantic Region, New Brunswick, January 11 (invited)

2015 Panel member for "Moving Beyond the Lecture: Online Teaching," Office of Instructional and Research Technology Annual Showcase, Rutgers University, December 4 (invited)

2015 "The (Mis)Foreignization Problem in Hebrew Bible Studies," Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Atlanta, GA November 23 (invited)

2014 Panel member on how the Brown Religious Studies graduate program prepared us for the professional responsibilities of being a full time faculty member, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning and Department of Religious Studies, Brown University, April 4 (invited)

2013 "What Ends Might Ritual Violence Accomplish?: The Case of Rachab and Baanah in 2 Samuel 4," Moskow Symposium: Theorizing Ritual Violence in the Hebrew Bible, Brown University, May 5-6 (invited)

2012 "Revising a Myth: The Targum of Psalm 74 and the Exodus Tradition," Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Chicago, IL, November 20

2012 "What Ends Might Ritual Violence Accomplish?: The Case of Rachab and Baanah in 2 Samuel 4," International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, July 23 (invited)

2011 "The Mythic Motif of YHWH's Authority over the Sea: The Cases of Antiochus IV Epiphanes, Jesus, and Gamaliel," Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, San Francisco, CA, November 21

2011 "YHWH Among Warrior Deities," New England Regional Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Newton, MA, April 29

2006 "The Development of the 'Way of YHWH' Motif in Second Isaiah," European Association of Biblical Scholars Conference, Piliscaba, Hungary, August 8

2006 “Cain, heretical (br)Other,” Religious Studies Conference: “How Intense is the Zeal”:
Creating Religious Orthodoxy in the Ancient Mediterranean and Near East, Providence,
RI, April 9

TEACHING

Undergraduate Courses Taught

Introduction to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

Ancient Near Eastern Religions

Introduction to the Bible I: Torah and Prose

Introduction to the Bible II: Prophets and Poetry

Hebrew Bible

Hebrew Prophets

Bible and Archeology

Gods in the Bible

“Scripture” in the First Century

Who Wrote the Bible?

The Birth and Death of God from Mesopotamia to Post-Modernity

The ‘Way of the Lord’ in the Hebrew Bible, New Testament, and Dead Sea Scrolls

The New Testament World

Introduction to Biblical Hebrew

Readings in Biblical Hebrew

extra-curricular Aramaic reading independent study

Graduate-level Courses Taught

Sanctifying Violence and the Biblical Tradition

Targumic Aramaic

Activities for Specific Graduate Students

MA Thesis Defense Committee Member, Charles Loder, Jewish Studies, Rutgers, 2016

MA Thesis Defense Committee Member, Daniyah Hannini, Religion, Rutgers, 2015

MA Comprehensive Exams Reader, Charles Loder, Jewish Studies, Rutgers, 2015

MA Comprehensive Exams Reader, Pnina Zunger, Jewish Studies, Rutgers, expected Fall 2017

MA Advisor, William Fennelly, Religion, Rutgers, beginning Spring 2017

Pedagogical Training

Certificate in the Teaching of Higher Education, Harriet W. Sheridan Center for Teaching and
Learning, Brown University

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

2008 Research in the Mari Archives for Saul Olyan, Brown University

2009 Assistant Editor, *differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*, Brown University

2005-2006 Research on contemporary conservative religious culture for Elizabeth Castelli,
visiting scholar at the Pembroke Center, Brown University

2005-2006 Assistant Editor, *differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*, Brown
University

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Field Service

2015-present Co-chair 'Bible, Myth, and Myth Theory' Unit, Society of Biblical Literature

2016-present Steering Committee 'Religious Competition in Late Antiquity' Unit, Society of
Biblical Literature

2012-present Steering Committee, 'Bible, Myth, and Myth Theory' Unit, Society of Biblical
Literature

2013-present review of book proposals for Oxford University Press

2013-present review of book proposals for Routledge Press

2015 review of research funding proposal for European Research Council

University Service

2017 Spring Semester Acting Graduate Advisor, Department of Religion

2015-2018 Department Representative on the Rutgers Faculty Council

2015-present member of Department of Religion Curriculum Committee

2015 Humanities Faculty Representative, Rutgers SAS Honors College Showcase, February 20

2015 Humanities Faculty Representative, Rutgers SAS Honors College Showcase, March 9

2015 Rutgers Day organizer for Department of Religion program and table

2014 Rutgers Day organizer for Department of Religion program and table

2013-2014 Educational Enrichment Review Committee, Faculty Member

2013 representative for the Department of Religion at University SAS Majors Fair

2011 Graduate Student Liaison for the Graduate Student and Postgraduate Parents group, Sarah
Doyle Women's Center, Brown University

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society of Biblical Literature

North American Association for the Study of Religion