

Alan Lenzi, Ph.D.

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PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Professor, Department of History, University of the Pacific (Stockton, CA), Spring 2022–

Professor, Department of Religious Studies, University of the Pacific (Stockton, CA), Fall 2018–Spring 2022

Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies, University of the Pacific (Stockton, CA), Fall 2012–Spring 2018

Assistant Professor, Department of Religious & Classical Studies, University of the Pacific (Stockton, CA), Fall 2006–Spring 2012

Visiting Lecturer, Washington University in St. Louis, Fall 2003, Spring 2004, Fall 2004, Spring 2006

Adjunct and Visiting Lecturer, University of Missouri–Columbia, 2004–2005

Adjunct Professor, Webster University, Spring 2003

Language Instructor, North Park Theological Seminary, Summer 2001

Teaching Assistant, Brandeis University, Fall 1998 and Spring 1999

GRADUATE EDUCATION

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY, Waltham, MA

Ph.D., Ancient Near East and Hebrew Bible, February 2006

Dissertation: “The ‘Secret of the Gods’ and Society: Studies in the Origins, Guarding, and Disclosure of Secret Knowledge in Ancient Mesopotamia and Biblical Israel.”

Successfully Defended: December 15th, 2005.

Committee: Tzvi Abusch, David Wright, and Marc Brettler.

Qualifying Exams: Akkadian, with distinction; Northwest Semitics; Hebrew Bible, with distinction.

M.A., Ancient Near East and Hebrew Bible, 2002

PUBLICATIONS

§A: Scholarly Monographs, Editions, and Edited Volumes:

Suffering in Babylon: Ludlul Bēl Nēmeqi and the Scholars, Ancient and Modern. *Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis* 300. Leuven: Peeters, 2023. Open-access version: <https://www.peeters-leuven.be/pdf/9789042950979.pdf>.

An Introduction to Akkadian Literature: Contexts and Content. University Park: Eisenbrauns / Pennsylvania State University Press, 2019.

Edited with Jonathan Stökl. *Divination, Politics, and Ancient Near Eastern Empires*. *Ancient Near East Monographs* 7. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2014. Open-access version: https://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/pubs/9781589839984_OA.pdf.

Editor. *Reading Akkadian Prayers and Hymns: An Introduction*. Ancient Near East Monographs 3. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2011 (corrected version published, 2015).

Contributed “About This Book,” ix–xvii; “Introduction,” 1–24, 36–60; “An OB Ikribu-Like Prayer to Shamash and Adad,” 85–104; “An OB Letter-Prayer to Ninmug,” 105–109; “An OB Royal Hymn to Ištar,” 111–130; “An Incantation-Prayer: Ghosts of My Family 1,” 133–144; “A Shuilla: Ea 1a,” 227–242; “A Shuilla: Gula 1a,” 243–256; “A Shuilla: Marduk 4,” 291–311; “A Shuilla: Nabu 1,” 325–337; “A Shuilla: Sin 1,” 385–402; “Dingirshadibbas to Personal Deities,” 431–445, “A Tamitu to Shamash and Adad,” 465–474. “A NB Royal Prayer to Nabu,” 475–481; “A Hymn to Marduk: *Ludlul bēl nēmeqi* I 1–40,” 483–501. Open-access version: https://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/pubs/9781589835962_OA.pdf.

With Amar Annus. *Ludlul Bēl Nēmeqi: The Standard Babylonian Poem of the Righteous Sufferer*. State Archives of Assyria Cuneiform Texts 7. Helsinki: The Neo-Assyrian Text Corpus Project, 2010.

Secrecy and the Gods: Secret Knowledge in Ancient Mesopotamia and Biblical Israel. State Archives of Assyria Studies 19. Helsinki: The Neo-Assyrian Text Corpus Project, 2008.

§B. Large Projects in Preparation:

With Up-Lifted Hands: The Akkadian Shuila-Prayers. A collection of at least 60 *shuila*-prayers in Akkadian transliteration and English translation for the Society of Biblical Literature’s Writings from the Ancient World series, edited by Theodore Lewis (Johns Hopkins University). The proposal was accepted September 5, 2017.

A Complete Edition of Akkadian *Shuila*-Prayers (electronic and print); long-term project. See my “Corpus of Akkadian *Shuila*-Prayers Online” at <http://shuilas.org/catalog.html>. 269 of 338 tablets in the project are transliterated and translated. Many of these will be published in print in the book *With Up-Lifted Hands* (see above). I do all the coding on this digital humanities site.

“Akkadian Prayer Miscellany,” a digital repository of various Akkadian prayers—in transliteration and translation—that I am working on. <http://akkpm.org/index.html>. I have seventeen texts posted so far. Several of these have either been the basis for an article (see below, e.g., “Narrating for Nabû” and “The Prayer of Ashurnasirpal I to Ishtar”) or will be soon. I do all the coding on this digital humanities site.

I Call on You from Afar: Akkadian Prayers in Interdisciplinary Perspective. A monograph that illustrates the interpretive value of various methodological approaches as applied to a variety of Akkadian prayers.

§C. Peer-Reviewed Articles/ Invited Essays:

“Exploring Manners, Etiquettes, and Protocols with *Šuila*-Prayer Ištar 1.” To be included in a surprise *Festschrift*. 8,500 words. Submitted in December 2022. Volume in preparation.

“The Prayer of Ashurnasirpal I to Ishtar: An Exegetical Reading.” In *Jehu’s Tribute: Contributions of Biblical Studies to Assyriology*. Edited by Jeffrey Cooley and Rannfrid Thelle. University Park: Eisenbrauns / Pennsylvania State University Press. 10,000 words. Submitted in September 2022. Volume in preparation.

“Counsels of Wisdom: An Ancient Babylonian Instruction for Scribes.” *Religion Compass* 15 (2021), 12pp. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/rec3.12390>

- “Narrating for Nabû: Power and Persuasion in an Assyrian Prayer to the Scribal God.” *State Archive of Assyria Bulletin* 25 (2019), 11–45. (appeared 2020)
- “Ancient Mesopotamian Scholars, Ritual Speech, and Theorizing Religion without ‘Theory’ or ‘Religion’.” Pages 153–175 in *Theorizing ‘Religion’ in Antiquity: From Eusebeia to Impietas*. Edited by Nickolas P. Roubekas. Studies in Ancient Religion and Culture. London: Equinox, 2019.
- “‘Counsels of Wisdom’ as ‘White-Collar’ Wisdom in First Millennium Ancient Mesopotamia.” Pages 60–69 in *Teaching Morality in Antiquity: Wisdom Texts, Oral Traditions, and Images*. Edited by Takayoshi M. Oshima. Orientalische Religionen in der Antike 29. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2018.
- “Material, Constellation, Image, God: The Fate of the Chosen Bull according to KAR 50 and Duplicates.” Pages 58–96 in *“The Scaffolding of Our Thoughts”: Essays on Assyriology and the History of Science in Honor of Francesca Rochberg*. Ancient Magic and Divination. Edited by C. Jay Crisostomo, Eduardo A. Escobar, Terri Tanaka, and Niek Veldhuis. Leiden: Brill, 2018.
- “Scribal Revision and Textual Variation in Akkadian Šuila-Prayers: Two Case Studies in Ritual Adaptation.” Pages 63–108 in *Empirical Models Challenging Biblical Criticism*. Edited by Raymond F. Person, Jr. and Robert Rezetko. Society of Biblical Literature Ancient Israel and Its Literature. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2016.
- “Mesopotamian Scholarship: Kassite to Late Babylonian Periods.” *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern History* 2.2 (2015), 145–201.
- “The Language of Akkadian Prayers in *Ludlul bēl nēmeqi* and its Significance within and beyond Mesopotamia.” Pages 67–105 in *Mesopotamia in the Ancient World: Impact, Continuities, Parallels*. Edited by Robert Rollinger and Erik van Dongen. Melammu Symposia 7. Münster: Ugarit-Verlag, 2015.
- “Scribal Hermeneutics and the Twelve Gates of *Ludlul bēl nēmeqi*,” *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 135.4 (2015), 733–749.
- “Prophecy, Imperialism, and Secrecy: Revisiting Biblical Prophecy and Secrecy in Light of Ancient Mesopotamian Prophetic Texts.” Pages 65–86 in *Divination, Politics, and Ancient Near Eastern Empires*. Edited by Alan Lenzi and Jonathan Stökl. Ancient Near East Monographs 7. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2014.
- “Advertising Secrecy, Creating Power in Ancient Mesopotamia: How Scholars Used Secrecy in Scribal Education to Bolster and Perpetuate Their Social Prestige and Power,” *Antiquo Oriente* 11 (2013), 13–42.
- “A New Akkadian Shuila-Prayer to the Three Paths of Heaven and the Third Tablet of *Bīt salā’ mē*.” *Orientalia* 82 (2013), 1–10.
- “The Curious Case of Failed Revelation in *Ludlul Bēl Nēmeqi*: A New Suggestion for the Poem’s Scholarly Purpose.” Pages 36–66 in *Between Heaven and Earth: Communication with the Divine in the Ancient Near East*. Edited by C. L. Crouch, J. Stökl, and A. Zernecke. Library of the Hebrew Bible /Old Testament Studies. London: T&T Clark, 2012.
- With Amar Annus. “A Six-Column Babylonian Tablet of *Ludlul Bēl Nēmeqi* and the Reconstruction of Tablet IV.” *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 70.2 (2011), 181–205.

- “*Šiptu ul Yuttun*: Some Reflections on a Closing Formula in Akkadian Incantations.” Pages 131–166 in *Gazing on the Deep: Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and Jewish Studies in Honor of Tzvi Abusch*. Edited by Jeffrey Stackert, Barbara Nevling Porter, and David P. Wright. Bethesda: CDL Press, 2010.
- “The Calendrical Basis for the Placement of Psalms 19 and 119 in the Masoretic Psalter.” *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* 34 (2010), 447–473.
- “Invoking the God: Interpreting Invocations in Mesopotamian Prayers and Biblical Laments of the Individual.” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 129.2 (2010), 303–315. Translated into Korean in *Theological Studies* (Hanshin University Press) 60 (2012), 3–30.
- “Secrecy, Textual Legitimation, and Inter-Cultural Polemics in the Book of Daniel.” *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 71 (2009), 330–348.
- “The Uruk List of Kings and Sages and Late Mesopotamian Scholarship.” *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions* 8.2 (2008), 137–169.
- “Dead Religion and Contemporary Perspectives: Commending Mesopotamian Data to the Religious Studies Classroom.” *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion* 19 (2007), 1–13.
- “Proverbs 8:22-31: Three Perspectives on Its Composition.” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 125.4 (2006), 687–714.
- “The Translation of Song of Songs 5:8.” *Bible Translator: Technical Papers* 49.1 (1998), 116–123. (Note: the Hebrew transliteration in this article was editorially garbled)

§D. Electronic Publication:

“Commentary on Ludlul (CCP no. 1.3).” Yale University’s *Cuneiform Commentaries Project* (2015; revised, 2023). <http://ccp.yale.edu/P394923>.

I supplied and formatted the transliterations of fifty-four tablets of *Ludlul Bēl Nēmeqi* to the Corpus of Ancient Mesopotamian Scholarship (ed. Eleanor Robson), which is part of the Open Richly Annotated Cuneiform Corpus. See <http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/cams/> (under Ludlul)

§E. Encyclopedia Articles:

“Ludlul Bēl Nēmeqi.” Database of Religious History, Vancouver, BC: University of British Columbia. <https://religiondatabase.org/browse/1661/>.

“An Akkadian *Tamitu*-Query.” In *Prayer in the Ancient World*. Edited by Daniel Falk and Rodney Werline. Leiden: Brill. Submitted October 2021.

“Mesopotamia, Babylon.” For Society of Biblical Literature’s Bible Odyssey website, <https://www.bibleodyssey.com/places/main-articles/mesopotamia-babylon/>.

“Divine Secrets.” For Society of Biblical Literature’s Bible Odyssey website, <https://www.bibleodyssey.com/passages/related-articles/divine-secrets/>.

“How Does the Hebrew Bible Relate to the Ancient Near Eastern World?” For Society of Biblical Literature’s Bible Odyssey website, <https://www.bibleodyssey.com/bible-basics/how-does-the-hebrew-bible-relate-to-the-ancient-near-eastern-world/>.

“Assyriology: Its Importance for Biblical Interpretation.” In *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Biblical Interpretation*. Edited by Steven McKenzie. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.

“Erech.” In *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*. Edited by Hans-Josef Klauck *et al.* Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2013.

§F. Notes:

“*Ludlul Bēl Nēmeqi* Tablet I, Line 48: A Conjectural Emendation.” *Nouvelles Assyriologiques Brèves et Utilitaires* 2020.4, #116. (2160 words)

“K.8576: Not a Witness to *Ludlul Bēl Nēmeqi*.” *Nouvelles Assyriologiques Brèves et Utilitaires* 2020.2, #74. (2060 words)

“An Alternate Ending to an Akkadian Letter-Prayer to Amurru (AbB 12, no. 99).” *Nouvelles Assyriologiques Brèves et Utilitaires* 2015.4, #96.

“*Tašnintu* II, ‘Repetition, Teaching?’” *Nouvelles Assyriologiques Brèves et Utilitaires*, 2006, #31.

§G. Other Professional Writing:

“Akkadian Prayers in Ancient Mesopotamia.” *The Ancient Near East Today*, March 2016, Vol. IV, No. 3. <https://www.asor.org/anetoday/2016/03/akkadian-prayers/>.

“Why You Should Submit Your Manuscript or Proposal to the Online, Open-Access Ancient Near East Monograph Series.” For the SBL website (2010).

“Confessions and Reflections: What Can the Bible Do for the Liberal Arts?” *The SBL Forum* 5.1 (2007).

§H. Popular Work:

Impressions of Ancient Mesopotamia. Piscataway: Gorgias Press, 2006.
(Juvenile non-fiction that introduces Mesopotamian cylinder seal art)

§I. Book Reviews:

Michela Piccin, *Linguistic Aspects of Persuasiveness in Akkadian—Petitions and Prayers for Orientalia* (submitted, June 2023).

Serdar Yalçın, *Selves Engraved on Stone: Seals and Identity in the Ancient Near East, ca. 1415–1050 BCE* for *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* (submitted, August 2023).

Shalom E. Holtz, *Praying Legally* for *Review of Biblical Literature* (2020).

Takayoshi Oshima, *Babylonian Poems of Righteous Sufferers: Ludlul Bēl Nēmeqi and the Babylonian Theodicy* for *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 76.1 (2017), 180–187. (major review of text edition.)

Samuel Chen, *The Primeval Flood Catastrophe: Origins and Early Development in Mesopotamian Traditions* for *History of Religions* 55.3 (2015), 367–370.

Mark Smith, *God in Translation: Deities in Cross-Cultural Discourse in the Biblical World* for *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 132.3 (2012), 471–473.

A. R. George, *Babylonian Literary Texts in the Schøyen Collection* for *Review of Biblical Literature* (2011).

Peter Dubovsky, *Hezekiah and the Assyrian Spies: Reconstruction of the Neo-Assyrian Intelligence Services and its Significance for 2 Kings 18–19* for *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 71.1 (2012), 121–123.

Richard J. Clifford, ed. *Wisdom Literature in Mesopotamia and Israel* for *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 129.1 (2009), 160–161.

Stephanie Dalley, *Esther's Revenge at Susa: From Sennacherib to Ahasuerus* for *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures* 9 (2009).

Hector Avalos, *The End of Biblical Studies for Anduraru: The Bulletin of the Institute for Ancient Near Eastern and Afroasiatic Cultural Research*, Special Edition #4 (2007).

Jon D. Levenson, *Resurrection and the Restoration of Israel: The Ultimate Victory of the God of Life* for *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures* 8 (2008).

John H. Walton, *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament: Introducing the Conceptual World of the Hebrew Bible* for *Review of Biblical Literature* (2007).

Benjamin R. Foster, *Before the Muses: An Anthology of Akkadian Literature*, Third Edition for *Review of Biblical Literature* (2005).

Simo Parpola and Michael Porter, *The Helsinki Atlas of the Near East in the Neo-Assyrian Period* in *Review of Biblical Literature* 5 (2003), 78–81.

LANGUAGES

Ancient (reading): Akkadian, Biblical Hebrew, Sumerian, Koine Greek, Old and Biblical Aramaic, Ugaritic, and other NWS dialects

Modern (reading): German, French, Spanish, Italian, Modern Hebrew

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

University of the Pacific, Rupley-Church Grant for International Relations, 2023

To visit Corinth, Athens, and Ephesus to gain archaeological background for Early Christianity course.

Faye and Alex Spanos Award for Distinguished Teaching, 2022

Thomas J. Long General Education Teaching Fellowship, Fall 2021

University of the Pacific Eberhardt Summer Research Fellowship, Summer 2021

To work on *Suffering in Babylon*.

University of the Pacific Scholarly/Artistic Activities Grant, December 2018

To obtain photographs and to pay licensing fees for *An Introduction to Akkadian Literature*.

Thomas J. Long General Education Teaching Fellowship, Fall 2018

To develop and prepare my new course, "Jerusalem through the Ages."

University Priority Grant, Fall 2017

To visit Jerusalem in preparation for a new course, "Jerusalem through the Ages."

Stephen E. Corson Award, Fall 2016

For distinguished teaching of freshmen.

College of the Pacific, College Research Fund Grant, Summer 2015

To visit the Anatolian Civilizations Museum (Ankara) and photograph tablets of shuilla prayers.

University of the Pacific Eberhardt Summer Research Fellowship, Summer 2014

To work on a survey of Akkadian literature.

University of the Pacific United Methodist Teacher/Scholar Award, Fall 2013

Thomas J. Long General Education Teaching Fellowship, Fall 2013

University of the Pacific Eberhardt Summer Research Fellowship, Summer 2012

To visit the Vorderasiatisches Museum (Berlin) and photograph tablets of shuilla prayers.

University of the Pacific Scholarly/Artistic Activity Grant, November 2011

To visit the British Museum (London) and photograph tablets of shuilla prayers.

Thomas J. Long General Education Teaching Fellowship, Fall 2010

For outstanding and innovative teaching in the general education program of the College of the Pacific.

University of the Pacific Eberhardt Summer Research Fellowship, Summer 2009

To continue work on the *Ludlul* edition.

University of the Pacific Scholarly/Artistic Activity Grant, November 2008

To commute twelve times to University of California–Berkeley to lead the faculty’s Akkadian Reading Group.

University of the Pacific Scholarly/Artistic Activity Grant, December 2007

To visit the British Museum (London) and collate tablets for an edition of *Ludlul*.

University of the Pacific Scholarly/Artistic Activity Grant, December 2006

To prepare a manuscript for publication. (Published as *Secrecy and the Gods*.)

Nahum and Anne Glatzer Endowed Prize in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, 2006

Awarded for outstanding scholarship in the Near Eastern and Judaic Studies Department at Brandeis University.

Society of Biblical Literature Regional Scholar of the Year–Central States, 2005

Awarded for my paper on Deuteronomy 29:28, noted below.

Central States Society of Biblical Literature Student Award, 2005

Karen McQuillan Fund of the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies,
Brandeis University, April 2003

A grant for dissertation related expenses.

Graduate School Travel Grants, May 2002 and May 2003

Travel grants for expenses to the 2002 and 2003 annual meetings of the American Oriental Society.

Fellowship and Full Tuition Remission, Brandeis University, 1997–2001

Faculty Grant for Graduate Study from the Edwin L. Jones Fund, Westminster, 1997

Monetary award given to one outstanding, graduating student who had been accepted for further graduate work at another institution.

Leslie W. Sloat Prize in Greek Exegesis, Westminster, 1997

Monetary prize awarded annually for the best Greek exegetical paper by a student enrolled in the Gospels class.

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

“The Mythology of Marduk’s Maleficence, His Dreamy Ministrants, and Public Ritual in *Ludlul Bēl Nēmeqi*,” via Zoom for Tehran Art University, June 28, 2023. (invited)

“The Mythology of Marduk’s Maleficence, His Dreamy Ministrants, and Public Ritual in *Ludlul Bēl Nēmeqi*,” for STRATA, the mythological research group at the University of Göttingen, May 16, 2023. (invited)

“Seeing and Hearing Secrets in Ancient Mesopotamia,” at “Wisdom at the Interface between God and Man,” Universität Hamburg, March 20–23, 2023. (invited)

“Exploring Manners, Etiquettes, and Protocols with *Šuila*-Prayer Ištar 1.” ASOR national meeting, Boston, fall 2022. (invited)

“*Ludlul Bel Nemeqi* II 71–83, Demonic Oppression, and Sleep Paralysis: A Comparative Study that Bridges the Ancient and Modern Contexts of Reading.” Society of Biblical Literature national meeting, San Antonio, fall 2021. (invited)

“Ashurbanipal’s Lament: A Half-Told Tale of Healing an Assyrian King.” 67th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, Università degli Studi di Torino (virtual), Turin, Italy, July 12–16, 2021. (invited)

“The Lament of Ashurbanipal: A Half-Told Tale of Healing an Assyrian King,” for The Assyrian Heritage Lecture at University of California–Berkeley and at The Assyrian American Association of San Jose, September 5 and 8, 2019. (invited)

“Nabonidus, the Righteous Sufferer,” at “The Spirit of Scholarship: Biblical and Mesopotamian Studies in the Roman Catholic Academy,” Boston College, September 22–24, 2019. (invited)

- “Narrating for Nabû: An Assyrian Prayer to the Scribal God as Persuasion,” at “Problems Defining Prayer in Antiquity: International Symposium,” Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, April 11–12, 2019. (invited)
- I delivered three lectures and seminars on Akkadian wisdom literature at the Institute for the History of Ancient Civilizations at Northeast Normal University in Changchun, China, in April 2019. (invited)
- “‘Learn from My Example’: The Reception of *Ludlul Bel Nemeqi*,” International meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Helsinki, summer 2018. (invited)
- “Ancient Mesopotamian Prayer,” Barton College symposium on ancient prayer, June 2018. (invited)
- “Ancient Mesopotamian Prayer,” part of the series “Calling on the Gods: Prayer in the Ancient World” at Pennsylvania State University, Department of Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies, December 1, 2017. (invited)
- “To Do: The Varied Instructions of the Lilissu-Drum Ritual and Textual Pluriformity,” Society of Biblical Literature national meeting, Boston, fall 2017. (invited)
- “‘Counsels of Wisdom’ as ‘White-Collar’ Wisdom in First Millennium Ancient Mesopotamia,” Teaching Morals in Antiquity: Wisdom Texts, Oral Traditions, and Images Symposium at University of Leipzig, November 29–December 1, 2016. (invited)
- “The Topography of Ezekiel 8 and Its Significance,” University of Texas–Austin, October 14, 2016. (invited, graduate seminar)
- “The Book of Job: Your Literary Theophany,” University of Texas–Austin, October 13, 2016. (invited, public lecture)
- “Assyriology at the Liberal Arts College: A Report from the Field,” 62nd Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, July 11–15, 2016.
- “*Ludlul Bel Nemeqi* and/as Revelation,” Society of Biblical Literature national meeting, Atlanta, Fall 2015.
- “Ancient Mesopotamian Prayer: Evidence and Methodological Issues,” Society of Biblical Literature national meeting, Atlanta, fall 2015. (invited)
- “Otherworldly Beings: Mesopotamia,” Otherworldly Beings in the Ancient World Symposium, University of Washington, Seattle, May 11, 2015. (invited)
- “Reflections on Scribal Revision in Akkadian Texts,” Society of Biblical Literature national meeting, San Diego, fall 2014. (invited)
- “The Intellectual Context of *Ludlul Bēl Nēmeqi* (Medical Perspectives) and the Interpretation of *Ludlul* II 68-85 as Sleep Paralysis,” Society of Biblical Literature national meeting, Baltimore, Fall 2013.
- “Akkadian Shuila-Prayers, Existential Exile, and Ritual Banishment,” Society of Biblical Literature national meeting, Baltimore, Fall 2013. (invited)
- “*Ludlul bēl nēmeqi* and the Language of Akkadian Prayer,” Mesopotamia in the Ancient World: Impact, Continuity, Parallels (*Melammu Symposium 7*), Obergurgl, Tyrol, Austria, Fall 2013. (invited)
- “The Commentary to *Ludlul Bēl Nēmeqi*: A Closer Look,” American Oriental Society national meeting, Portland, Spring 2013.
- “Advertising Secrecy, Creating Power in Ancient Mesopotamia,” American Schools of Oriental Research national meeting, Atlanta, Fall 2010. (invited)
- “A New Edition of *Ludlul Bēl Nēmeqi*,” Society of Biblical Literature national meeting, New Orleans, Fall 2009.

- “Scribal Play in the Twelve Gates of *Ludlul IV*,” American Oriental Society, Albuquerque, Spring 2009.
- “Invoking the God: Comparing Laments in Mesopotamia and the Hebrew Psalter,” Society of Biblical Literature national meeting, Boston, Fall 2008.
- “The Position of the Torah Psalms in the MT Psalter,” Western Commission for the Study of Religion, Pasadena, Spring 2008.
- Panelist reviewer of Hector Avalos, *The End of Biblical Studies* (Amherst, NY: Prometheus, 2007), Institute for Ancient Near Eastern & Afroasiatic Cultural Research Colloquium (convening during the AAR/SBL annual meeting), San Diego, Fall 2007. (invited)
- “The Uruk King-Sage List and Late Mesopotamian Scholarship,” *Babylonia’s Imprint on Hellenism*, Berkeley, Fall 2007. (invited)
- “Re-Reading KAR 44, the Vademecum of the Exorcist,” American Oriental Society, San Antonio, Spring 2007.
- “Secrecy in The Book of Daniel and a Polemic with Mesopotamian Scholarship,” Society of Biblical Literature national meeting, Washington D.C., Fall 2006.
- “Dead Religion and Contemporary Perspectives: Using Mesopotamian Religion Pedagogically in Religious Studies,” Central States regional meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, St. Louis, Spring 2006.
- “Moses: The Israelite *Apkallu*,” Society of Biblical Literature national meeting, Philadelphia, Fall 2005.
- “The Royal Secret Council, The Divine Assembly, and the Secret of the Gods,” Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, Chicago, Summer 2005.
- “The Divine Assembly in Israel and Secrecy,” Central States regional meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, St. Louis, Spring 2005.
- “Deuteronomy 29:28: A Failed Textual Intervention,” Central States regional meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, St. Louis, Spring 2004.
- “Ezekiel’s Tour of Jerusalem (Ezek 8): Text and Literary Critical Perspectives on the Old Greek and MT,” Central States regional meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, St. Louis, Spring 2003.
- “*Šiptu ul yuttun* and Legitimation: Reflections on a Closing Formula in Akkadian Incantations,” American Oriental Society, Nashville, Spring 2003.
- “Proverbs 8:22–31: Textual Echoes and the Construction of Theology,” Central States, Kansas City, MO, and Midwest, Mundelein, IL, regional meetings of the Society of Biblical Literature, Spring 2002.
- “Secrets, Wisdom, and the Standard Babylonian Redaction of the Epic of Gilgamesh,” American Oriental Society, Houston, Spring 2002.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

- “When History and the Bible Collide” for Stockton Area Atheists and Freethinkers group, May 15, 2019.
- “Visiting Jerusalem” for Stockton Kiwanis Club, January 8, 2019.
- “The Uses of a Babylonian Story of Suffering” for 2018–2019 Honor’s Seminar Series at University of the Pacific, October 11, 2018.
- “Ancient History and Contemporary CrISIS: Why ISIS is Destroying Archeological Treasures” for Humanities Lunch Discussion, University of the Pacific, November 19, 2015.

Talked about the Babylonian poem called *Ludlul Bel Nemeqi* (the Babylonian Job) to the Stockton Area Atheists and Freethinkers group, November 19, 2014.

Talked about “Myth: Ways to Think about It and Why” to the Stockton Area Atheists and Freethinkers group, March 29, 2013.

Talked about Mesopotamian civilization through the lens of cylinder seal art at Mable Barron elementary school (Stockton, CA). December 20, 2012.

Talked about getting ready for college at Lincoln High School (Stockton, CA). April 25, 2012.

Talked about the origins of the Hebrew Bible at the Stockton chapter of The Nineteenth Century Club. October, 2011.

Talked about cylinder seal art for Pacific’s OSHER Lifelong Learning Institute (Lodi and Stockton, CA). March 9 and 10, 2010.

Talked about the origins of writing and the cuneiform tradition for Pacific’s OSHER Lifelong Learning Institute (Lodi and Tracy, CA). August 4 and 6, 2009.

Talked about the Book of Daniel and Secrecy at Temple Israel (Stockton, CA). January 5, 2007.

Talked about cuneiform writing and cylinder seal art at Lincoln elementary school (Stockton, CA). November 9, 2006.

OTHER EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, Chicago, IL

Unofficial Auditor, Oriental Institute, 2000–2001

Two Quarters in Akkadian ritual and omen texts and in Sumerian language.

WESTMINSTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, Philadelphia, PA

M.A.R., Biblical Studies, 1997 *summa cum laude*, 1st in class

CENTRAL BIBLE COLLEGE, Springfield, MO

B.A., Bible, 1993 *magna cum laude*

TEACHING

History of Ancient Egypt and the Near East

Introduction to Mesopotamian Civilization

Mesopotamian Mythology

Jerusalem through the Ages

Introduction to Hebrew Bible

The New Testament and Christian Origins

The Bible in America

Biblical Wisdom Literature

Hebrew Prophets

Introduction to the Academic Study of Religion

Ancient Judaism: From the Persian Period to the Coming of Islam

Ancient Mythologies

Comparative Religion

Biblical Hebrew; Biblical Aramaic

Pacific Seminar I (common syllabus)

Pacific Seminar I: Euphoria, Utopia, Dystopia

Pacific Seminar II: Myth-Conceptions: Old & New

Pacific Seminar II: The Age of Hammurabi

Pacific Seminar II: Atheism and a Good Society?

CORE 1: Imagined Societies: Science Fiction, the Non-Sciences, and Us

CORE 2: Euphoria, Utopia, Dystopia

Akkadian Reading Group: *Ludlul* (Faculty Seminar at UC–Berkeley; 12 sessions)

Akkadian Reading Group: *Agum-kakrime* Inscription (Faculty Seminar at UC–Berkeley, 1 session)

DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

Ryan Davis, “Relating with Gods: Investigating Human-Divine Relationships in the Prayers of Israel and Mesopotamia Using a Performance Approach to Ritual.” University of Texas–Austin. Defended April 2016.

Milad Jahangirfar, Tehran Art University, Iran (external consultant and reader).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Chair, Editorial Board, [SBL Online Ancient Near East Monograph Series](#), 2015–2018

Acquired, secured peer review, and edited the following:

David Bosworth, *House of Weeping: The Motif of Tears in Akkadian and Hebrew Prayers* (ANEM 24; 2019).

Zev I. Farber and Jacob L. Wright, *Archaeology and History of Eighth-Century Judah* (ANEM 23; 2018).

Esther J. Hamori and Jonathan Stökl, *Perchance to Dream: Dream Divination in the Bible and Ancient Near East* (ANEM 21; 2018).

Shawn Zelig Aster, *Reflections of Empire in Isaiah 1-39: Responses to Assyrian Ideology* (ANEM 19; 2017).

José E. Balcells Gallarreta, *Household and Family Religion in Persian-Period Judah: An Archaeological Approach* (ANEM 18; 2017).

Mark J. Boda, *Exploring Zechariah, Volume 2: The Development and Role of Biblical Traditions in Zechariah* (ANEM 17; 2017).

Mark J. Boda, *Exploring Zechariah, Volume 1: The Development of Zechariah and Its Role within the Twelve* (ANEM 16; 2017).

Lydia Lee, *Mapping Judah’s Fate in Ezekiel’s Oracles against the Nations* (ANEM 15; 2016).

Lena-Sofia Tiemeyer, ed. *Priests and Cults in the Book of the Twelve* (ANEM 14; 2016).

Jason M. Silverman and Caroline Waerzeggers, ed. *Political Memory in and after the Persian Empire* (ANEM 13; 2015).

Jeremy M. Hutton and Aaron D. Rubin, ed. *Epigraphy, Philology, and the Hebrew Bible: Methodological Perspectives on Philological and Comparative Study of the Hebrew Bible in Honor of Jo Ann Hackett* (ANEM 12; 2015).

Editorial Board Member, SBL Online Ancient Near East Monograph Series, 2008–2014

Steering Committee, SBL Group: Prayer in Antiquity, 2015–2018

Steering Committee, SBL Group: Israelite Religion in its West Asian Environment, 2011–2014

Steering Committee, SBL Group: Prophetic Texts and their Ancient Context, 2008–2011

Section Editor, Ancient Near East/Hebrew Bible for *Religion Compass*, 2012–2016

Commissioned, secured peer review, and edited the following articles:

Volume 10 (2016)

Dennis R.M. Campbell, “The Introduction of Hurrian Religion into the Hittite Empire.”

JoAnn Scurlock, “Mortal and Immortal Souls, Ghosts and the (Restless) Dead in Ancient Mesopotamia.”

Allison Thomason, “The Materiality of Assyrian Sacred Kingship.”

Sarah C. Melville, “The Role of Rituals in Warfare during the Neo-Assyrian Period.”

Laurie E. Pearce, “Cuneiform Sources for Judeans in Babylonia in the Neo-Babylonian and Achaemenid Periods: An Overview.”

Mark Leuchter, “The Levites in the Hebrew Bible.”

Richard Jasnow, “The Book of Thoth.”

Volume 9 (2015)

Takayoshi Oshima, “The Babylonian Theodicy: An Ancient Babylonian Discourse on Human Piety and Divine Justice.”

Barbara Böck, “Ancient Mesopotamian Religion: A Profile of the Healing Goddess.”

Tali Erickson-Gini, “Piecing Together the Religion of the Nabataeans.”

Michael B. Hundley, “Divine Presence in Ancient Near Eastern Temples.”

Hannes D. Galter, “The Mesopotamian God Enki/Ea.”

Jonathan Stökl, “Prophecy and the Royal Court in the Ancient Near East.”

Volume 8 (2014)

Claus Ambos, “Ancient Near Eastern Royal Rituals.”

Prods Oktor Skjærvø, “Achaemenid Religion.”

Maria Michela Luiselli, “Personal Piety in Ancient Egypt.”

Angela Roskop Erisman, “New Historicism, Historical Criticism, and Reading the Pentateuch.”

Carolina López-Ruiz, “Greek and Canaanite Mythologies: Zeus, Baal, and their Rivals.”

Editorial Board Member, *Studies in the History of the Ancient Near East* (Routledge), 2019–

Editorial Advisory Board Member, *Library of Babylonian Literature* (Bloomsbury), 2020–

Served as referee for:

Journal of Near Eastern Studies

Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions

Journal of Ancient Civilizations

Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel

Ancient Near East Monograph Series

Vetus Testamentum

Antiquo Oriente

Oxford University Press

European Association of Biblical Studies grant committee

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Routledge Publishing

Baylor University Press

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Oriental Society

International Association for Assyriology

Association of Ancient Historians

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Member, New Testament & Early Christianity Faculty Search Committee, Fall 2006

Member, Courses and Standards Committee, Fall 2007–2010, 2019–2022

Co-Organizer of the Colliver Lecture, Fall 2008

Organizer, Pacific Judaic Fund Lecture, Spring 2009

Organizer of the Colliver Lecture, Fall 2009, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Fall 2016, Fall 2019

College Council, College of the Pacific, 2010–2013

Member, 2010–2011; Vice-Chair, 2011–2012; Chair, 2012–2013

Faculty Compensation Committee, 2013–2015

Academic Affairs Committee, 2015–2016

Ad Hoc Committee for International/Intercultural Issues, Fall 2015

Department Chair, Religious Studies, January 2015–2020

PACS 3 Planning Committee, 2015–2016

Academic Council, 2016–2019 (executive board, 2016–2017)

General Education Committee, 2022–

Faculty Grievance Committee, 2022–