

LISA J. CLEATH
Email: lisa.cleath@ptsem.edu

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS:

2022- *Assistant Professor of Old Testament*
Princeton Theological Seminary
64 Mercer Street
Princeton, NJ 08542

2017-2022 *Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies*
George Fox University

2016-2017 *Research Fellow, Aramaic Papyri*
Elephantine Papyrus Digitization Project, European Research Council
Ägyptisches Museum und Papyrussammlung

EDUCATION:

University Career

Ph.D. UCLA, 2016
Advisor: William M. Schniedewind
Committee Members: Ra'anan Boustan, Yona Sabar, Jacco Dieleman
Dissertation: *Reading Ceremonies in the Hebrew Bible: Ideologies of Textual Authority in Joshua 8, 2 Kings 23, Nehemiah 8*

M.A. UCLA, 2011
Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

M.A. Fuller Theological Seminary, 2006
Biblical Studies and Theology

B.A. Wheaton College, 2000
French language and literature integrated with Biblical Studies and Theology, summa cum laude

Certificates

LICENSURE Goethe Institute, Berlin Mitte, June 2015
Deutschkurs Intensiv 4, Stufe B1.2

LICENSURE Conservative Yeshiva of Jerusalem, August 2010
Modern Hebrew Ulpan Course, Level Dalet Plus

LICENSURE Sorbonne, Université de Paris, May 2001
Certificat Semestriel de Langue Française, Niveau Supérieur A

PUBLICATIONS:

Scribal Mechanisms of Empire: Achaemenid Aramaic Numerals. Manuscript in progress.

Political Textuality in the Ancient Middle East: Hybridizing Treaty Practices in Biblical Literature. Manuscript in progress. Forthcoming with Cambridge University Press.

“Curses in the Tel Fekheriyeh Inscription, the Sefire Treaties, and the Bukan Inscription (KAI 309, KAI 222-224, KAI 320).” Forthcoming in *Prayer in the Ancient World*. Leiden: Brill, 2024.

“The “Liberating” Colonizer and His Objective Text.” Forthcoming in *Sheffield Phoenix Press*, 2025. [Peer-reviewed article]

“Implications of Historical Trauma for Biblical Interpretation: Resilience in Scripture and Community Life.” *Currents in Theology and Mission* edited by Kimberly Wagner (2023).

“Psalm 106: Blessed Living as a Mixed-Race Descendant.” In *Psalms*, volume 8 of *Texts@Contexts* edited by Athalya Brenner, Gale Yee, & Archie Lee. New York: Bloomsbury/T&T Clark (2023).

“Rebuilding Jerusalem: Ezra-Nehemiah as Narrative Resilience.” *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 30 (2023): 1-27. [Peer-reviewed article]

“Divine Enthronement in a Conquered Land: Constructing a Landscape Monument in Joshua 8:30-35.” In

Inscribing Monumentality in the Ancient Levant and in the Hebrew Bible. Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel 10 (2021): 331-348. [Peer-reviewed article]

Review of Totten, Samuel, ed., *Teaching about Genocide: Insights and Advice from Secondary Teachers and Professors*. *The Wabash Center Journal on Teaching* 2.1 (2021).

“Constructing Colonial Identity in Missive Discourse: Temporal-Spatial Movement in the Jedaniah ‘Archive’ at Elephantine.” Aram Society for Syro-Mesopotamian Studies, The Oriental Institute, University of Oxford, 2019. [Peer-reviewed article]

"Manasseh, Prayer of." *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Books of the Bible*. New York/Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

EDITED VOLUMES:

Building the World with Words. [Co-editor of volume with Jeremy Smoak and Alice Mandell, Postscripts, forthcoming in 2025.]

Inscribing Monumentality in the Ancient Levant and in the Hebrew Bible. [Co-editor of volume with Jeremy Smoak and Alice Mandell, Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel 10, 2021.]

PRESENTATIONS:

“Royal Scribal Performance: Imperial Treaty Contact Zone.” Invited talk, University of St. Andrews Bible Seminar, April 2025.

“Achaemenid Aramaic in Hybrid Identity Formation: Elephantine, Bactria, and Ezra-Nehemiah.” Invited talk, The Bible in its Ancient Iranian Context Conference at UCLA, March 2025.

“Performing the Voice of the King: Political Authority in Ancient Monuments and Treaties.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Diego, November 2024.

“Aramaic Curse Traditions in Monumental Impact.” The 16th Lavy Colloquium: Jewish Monumentality. Johns Hopkins University, May 2024.

“Hybridity and Ambiguity in Asian American Feminist Biblical Scholarship: The Feminine God in the Hebrew Prophets.” Candler Foundry Course, Asian and Asian American Feminist Biblical Scholarship. Emory University, January 2024.

"How to Make Textual Authority: Hidden Legitimation in the Ancient and Modern Worlds." Invited talk, Yale Divinity School, September 2023.

Invited panelist, Review of Israel Finkelstein’s book *Inscribing Israel: Finkelstein’s Biblical Historiography and the Practice of Writing History* in Historiography and the Hebrew Bible session. Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Denver, November 2022.

“The “Liberating” Colonizer and His Objective Text.” SBL Virtual Symposium, June 2022.

“Achaemenid Aramaic Numerals: Scribal Training from Egypt to Bactria.” ASOR Virtual Conference, November 2021.

Invited Panelist, Documentary Texts and Literary Interpretation, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2020.

“Rebuilding Jerusalem: Ezra-Nehemiah as Narrative Resilience.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Diego, November 2019.

“The Audience in the Text: The Composition of Monumental Space in Biblical Reading Ceremonies.” International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Rome, invited paper July 2019.

“Constructing Colonial Identity in Missive Discourse: Temporal-Spatial Movement in the Jedaniah ‘Archive’ at Elephantine.” Aram Society for Syro-Mesopotamian Studies, The Oriental Institute, University of Oxford, July 2018.

“Private Storage of Public Discourse: The Temporal-Spatial Tension of the Jedaniah ‘Archive’ at Elephantine.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston, November 2017.

“Darius’ Digits: New Readings of the Aramaic Numerical Notation from Elephantine Island.” International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Berlin, invited paper August 2017.

“Public Reading in Joshua 8:30-35: Fluidity and Continuity in an Oral-Written Text.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Antonio, November 2016.

“Public Reading in Nehemiah 8: Authorizing an Oral-Written Text.” European Association of Biblical Studies Conference, Leuven, July 2016.

“And All of the People Joined in the Covenant: A social study of public reading audiences in the Hebrew Bible.” European Association of Biblical Studies Conference, Córdoba, July 2015.

“Towards an Israelite Theory of Public Reading.” European Association of Biblical Studies Conference, Córdoba, July 2015.

"Reading Ceremonies in the Hebrew Bible: Text As Ritual Performance." International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Vienna, July 2014.

"The Materiality of Text in Deuteronomy." International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, St. Andrews, July 2013.

“Ben Sira as Hellenistic Scribe-Redactor.” European Association of Biblical Studies Conference, Thessaloniki, August 2011.

DOCTORAL COMMITTEES:

Dissertation Committees:

Andrew Peecher, Princeton Theological Seminary 2022-present
Yudai Chiba, Princeton Theological Seminary 2022-present

Residential Committees:

Jenna Morgan, Princeton Theological Seminary 2023-present
Ebo Quainoo, Princeton Theological Seminary 2023-present
Shayley Martin, Princeton Theological Seminary 2025-present

External Reader:

Julianna Smith, “Stories Of Sexual Violence As Boundary Markers In Early Jewish Reception Of The Hebrew Bible,” UCLA 2022

COURSES TAUGHT:

Undergraduate and Graduate Courses:

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible, *George Fox University, OR and Princeton Theological Seminary, NJ*
Introduction to the New Testament, *George Fox University, OR*
History of Biblical Interpretation, *George Fox University, OR*
The Dead Sea Scrolls, *George Fox University, OR*
The Book of Psalms, *George Fox University, OR*
Ezra-Nehemiah: Exile and Migration, *George Fox University, OR*
Race, Ethnicity, and the Old Testament, *Princeton Theological Seminary, NJ*
Social Justice and the Bible, *George Fox University, OR and Princeton Theological Seminary, NJ*
Archaeology and the Bible, *George Fox University, OR*
Ancient Near Eastern Backgrounds of the Hebrew Bible seminar, *Princeton Theological Seminary, NJ*
Literature/Religion of the Hebrew Bible, Religious Studies Dept., *University of California at Santa Barbara*
Jerusalem the Holy City, NELC Dept., *University of California at Los Angeles*

Language Courses:

Introduction to Biblical Hebrew (in person & hybrid courses), *George Fox University, OR*
Biblical Hebrew Reading Course (hybrid course), *Portland Seminary, OR*
Hebrew II (online course), *Portland Seminary, OR*
Aramaic Survey, *Princeton Theological Seminary, NJ*
Elephantine Aramaic (online course), *Portland Seminary, OR*
Introduction to New Testament Greek (online course), *Portland Seminary, OR*
French for Academic Reading, *Fuller Theological Seminary, CA*

ACADEMIC SERVICE:

2025-	Steering Committee member for History and Historiography unit, <i>Society of Biblical Literature</i>
2023-	Steering Committee member for The Bible and Empire unit, <i>International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature</i>
2023-	Steering Committee member for Hebrew Scriptures and Cognate Literature unit, <i>Society of Biblical Literature</i>
2022-	Editorial board of <i>MAARAV</i>
2020-2026	Co-chair with Alice Mandell (Johns Hopkins University), Ancient Near East unit, <i>International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature</i>
2021-2022	Associate Director of Student Life, Margaret Fell Scholars Program, <i>George Fox University, OR</i>
2020-2022	Member, Digital Advisory Board, <i>George Fox University, OR</i>
2020-	Member, Colloquium for Biblical and Near Eastern Studies
2018	Co-chair, Beyond Language: The Multimodality of Ancient Texts session, <i>ASOR</i>
2018-2020	Master's Program Admissions Committee, <i>Portland Seminary, OR</i>
2017-2019	Faculty of Color Mentorship Program, <i>George Fox University, OR</i>

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

2007-	Member, Society of Biblical Literature (SBL)
2009-	Member, ASOR
2011-2018, 2023	Member, European Association of Biblical Studies (EABS)
2023-	Member, Society of Textual Scholarship
2024-	Member, APARRI

AWARDS:

2020-2021	Wabash Center Workshop Fellowship for Embodied Collaborative Approaches to Critical Race Consciousness and the Bible
Summer 2019	The William G. Dever Archaeological Fellowship, <i>ASOR</i>
2019-2020	Workshop for Early Career Theological School Faculty, <i>Wabash Center</i>
Summer 2018	The George Fox University Faculty Research Grant, <i>George Fox University, OR</i>
Fall 2015	Dissertation Year Fellowship, <i>University of California at Los Angeles</i>
Summer '13, '15	Roter Research Fellowship, Center for Jewish Studies, <i>University of California at Los Angeles</i>
Spring 2015	Mellon Pre-dissertation Fellowship, <i>University of California at Los Angeles</i>
Summer 2011	Summer Graduate Research Mentorship, <i>University of California at Los Angeles</i>
Summer 2010	Foreign Language and Area Studies Award (FLAS) for Modern Hebrew study at the <i>Conservative Yeshiva of Jerusalem</i>
2008-2009	Dean's Humanities Fellowship, <i>University of California at Los Angeles</i>

LANGUAGES:

MODERN: French (fluent, level A3), German (level C1.2), Hebrew (academic reading)

ANCIENT: Hebrew, Aramaic, Koine & Classical Greek, Northwest Semitic Dialects, Ugaritic, Syriac