

Elaine Theresa James

Associate Professor of Old Testament
Princeton Theological Seminary
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor of Old Testament, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2019–current
Associate Professor of Theology, St. Catherine University, 2019
Assistant Professor of Theology, St. Catherine University, 2013–19

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Old Testament, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2013
Ruprecht-Karl-Universität Heidelberg, Special Student, 2009
Master of Theology, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2008
Master of Divinity, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2007
Bachelor of Arts, *summa cum laude*, Gordon College, English Literature, 2002

TEACHING AND RESEARCH AREAS

Hebrew Bible; Biblical Hebrew Poetry; Literary Criticism and Theory; Aesthetics; Ecology and the Anthropocene; Feminisms; Biblical Theology

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs (Peer Reviewed)

5. *Wisdom Commentary: Hosea*, with Rhiannon Graybill, Liturgical Press, under contract
4. *The Song of Songs: A New Commentary*, Old Testament Library, Westminster John Knox Press, under contract
3. *Making: Material, Aesthetics, and Ecology in the Hebrew Bible*. New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2026
2. *An Invitation to Biblical Poetry*. Essentials of Biblical Studies. New York: Oxford University Press, 2021

Access here: <https://academic.oup.com/book/38970?login=true>

Reviews:

[Joseph Lam, *Review of Biblical Literature* 3 \(2026\)](#)

[Francis Landy, *Review of Biblical Literature* 4 \(2024\)](#)

[Micah Barksdale, *Journal for Baptist Theology and Ministry* \(2024\)](#)

[Brent Strawn, *Interpretation* \(2024\)](#)

[Wilfred G.E. Watson, *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* \(2024\)](#)

R. Reed Lessing, *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* (2023)

1. *Landscapes of the Song of Songs: Poetry and Place*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017

Access here: <https://academic.oup.com/book/2865?login=true>

Reviews:

F. Scott Spenser, *Interpretation* 22 (2022): 266

Jered Beverly, *Horizons in Biblical Theology* 41 (2019): 105–108

George Savran, *Nashim* (2019): 185–188

Kelli A. Gardner, *AJS Review* (2019): 193–195

Wilfred G. E. Watson, *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* (2018): 98

Stephen C. Russell, *Review of Biblical Literature* (2018)

Edited Volumes (Peer Reviewed)

3. *The Ideas of Biblical Poetry: Aesthetics and Literary History*, eds. Elaine T. James and S. Weitzman, *Prooftexts* Special Issue 40 (2023)

Access here: <https://research.ebsco.com/c/tnt55u/viewer/html/mxzyxhdqdz>

2. *Reading the Song of Songs in a #MeToo Era*, eds., Elaine T. James and Simeon B. Chavel, Biblical Interpretation Series. Boston/Leiden: Brill, 2023

Access here: <https://brill.com/display/title/64706>

1. *Biblical Poetry and the Art of Close Reading*, eds. J. Blake Couey and Elaine T. James. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2018

Access here: <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781316659670>

Articles and Essays (Peer Reviewed)

18. “Arts of Description: Ekphrasis, Making, and Psalm 115,” *Postscripts*, Vol 2: “Building the World with Words,” eds. Lisa Cleath, Alice Mandell, and Jeremy Smoak (forthcoming)
17. “Aesthetics from Below: Reading Biblical Poetry with Herder,” *Towards an Aesthetic Reading of Hebrew Bible Poetry: “My Heart is Astir with a Good Word,”* eds. Yannik Ehmer and Bernd U. Schipper (London: Bloomsbury, forthcoming)
16. “Tree Thinking: The Song of Songs and Philosophy of Plants,” eds. Anselm Hagedorn and Philip Esler (Leiden: Brill, forthcoming)
15. “The Song of Songs: a New Translation,” *Love Poetry from the Ancient Near East and Egypt*, ed. Martti Nissinen, Writings from the Ancient World (Atlanta: SBL, forthcoming)
14. “The Psalms and The Speaking World: Art, Anthropocene, Enchantment,” *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 87.4 (2025): 610–30
13. “The Nature of Nature: The Song of Songs and Ecology,” *Oxford Handbook to the Song of Songs*. Edited by Fiona Black. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming
12. “The Literary Gigantic in the Hebrew Bible: Experiencing Time in Imaginary Space,” *Bible and Critical Theory* 20.2 (2025) <https://bibleandcriticaltheory.com/vol-20-no-2-2024-elaine-t-james/>
11. “Giving Birth to Knowledge: Creativity and Procreativity in Biblical Texts,” *Biblica* 104.2 (2023): 195–217
10. “The Ideas of Biblical Poetry: Aesthetics and Literary History,” with Steven Weitzman, *Prooftexts* 40.1 (2023): 1–11
9. “The Song of Songs and Women’s Voices,” *Reading the Song of Songs in a #MeToo Era*, eds., Elaine T. James and Simeon B. Chavel (Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2023), 1–12
8. “The Song of Songs and #MeToo: Critical Reading, Reparative Reading,” *Reading the Song of Songs in a #MeToo Era*, eds., Elaine T. James and Simeon B. Chavel (Leiden: Brill, 2023), 15–37
7. “The Aesthetics of Biblical Acrostics,” *Journal for the Study of Old Testament* 46.3 (2022): 319–38

6. “‘What Kind of Likeness?’ The Aesthetic Impulse in Biblical Poetry” with Sean Burt, *Prooftexts* 38 (2020): 1–33
5. “The Ekphrastic Figure(s) in Song 5:10-16” with F. W. Dobbs-Allsopp, *Journal of Biblical Literature* 138 (2019): 297–32
4. “‘Silence is Praise’: Art and Knowledge in Psalm 65.” Pages 32–48 in *Biblical Poetry and the Art of Close Reading*, edited by E. James and J. B. Couey (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018)
3. “Battle of the Sexes: Gender and the City in the Song of Songs,” *Journal for the Study of Old Testament* 42 (2017): 93–116
2. “A City Who Surrenders,” *Vetus Testamentum* 67 (2017): 448–57
1. “The Plowers Plowed: The Violated Body in Psalm 129,” *Biblical Interpretation* 25 (2017): 172–89

Other Articles and Essays

11. “Poetic Techniques of the Psalms,” *The Book of Psalms*, edited by Melody Knowles, Dorothea Erbele-Küster, Susanne Gillmayr-Bucher. Themes and Issues in Biblical Studies. Sheffield: Equinox Press, forthcoming.
10. “What People Make: Artisanry and Recycling in the Tabernacle Story,” *forthcoming*
9. “Does Poetry Lie? Micah and the Muddy Waters of Aesthetic Speech,” *Guide Me Into Your Truth* (Eugene: Cascade Books, 2023)
8. “Prologue: Land, Identity, and the Limits of Control,” *Princeton Theological Review* (2020)
7. “The Song and Ecology,” and “The Song and Ecofeminism,” in Scott Spenser, *The Song of Songs*. Wisdom Commentary. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2017
6. “Land and Community in the Book of Ruth,” Pages 29–39 in *Rooted and Grounded: Essays on Land and Christian Discipleship*, Ryan Dallas Harker and Janeen Bertsche Johnson, eds. (Eugene, OR: Pickwick Press, 2015)
5. “Sarah, Hagar, and Their Interpreters.” Pages 51–55 in *The Women’s Bible Commentary*. Edited by Carol A. Newsom, Sharon H. Ringe, and Jacqueline E. Lapsley. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2012
4. “Miriam and Her Interpreters.” Pages 67–69 in *The Women’s Bible Commentary*. Edited by Carol A. Newsom, Sharon H. Ringe, and Jacqueline E. Lapsley. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2012
3. “The Light of the Eye: The Problem of Richard Wilbur’s Metaphysics.” *Renascence* 60 (2008): 236–49
2. “Poetic Process: Geography and Reiteration in the Song of Songs,” *Poetic Approaches to the Song of Songs*. Edited by Sarah Zhang and Kevin Chau. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, forthcoming
1. “Voicing Violence: Women, Solidarity, and Estrangement in Biblical Poetry,” in preparation

Introductions and Dictionary and Encyclopedia Entries

14. “The Poetry of the Psalms,” *Cambridge Companion to the Psalms*, edited by Brent Strawn and Joel LeMon. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming
13. “Introduction to the Poetical and Wisdom Books,” *HarperCollins Study Bible, Third Edition*, Steven L. McKenzie, Kristin De Troyer, F. Scott Spencer, eds., Atlanta: SBL Press, forthcoming
12. “Joel,” Introduction and Annotations, *New Oxford Annotated Bible*, eds., Michael Coogan, et al., 2023
11. “Job, Book of,” *T&T Clark Encyclopedia of Second Temple Judaism*. Edited by Loren T. Stuckenbruck and Daniel M. Gurtner. London: T&T Clark, 2019
10. “Song of Solomon.” *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Ethics*. Edited by Robert L. Brawley. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2014: 301–304
9. “Poetry, Hebrew,” with F.W. Dobbs-Allsopp. *Oxford Bibliographies in “Biblical Studies.”* Edited by

Christopher R. Matthews. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press

- 1.–8. “Honey,” “Hyssop,” “Emotions, HB/OT,” “Cain (Person) HB/OT,” “Cain and Abel,” “Cain, Mark of,” “Chaff,” “Confession: HB/OT,” in *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*. Edited by Hans-Josef Klauck, et al. Walter de Gruyter (2010—)

Reviews

13. *Plants in Place: A Phenomenology of the Vegetal*, by Edward S. Casey and Michael Marder. *Biblical Interpretation*, forthcoming
12. *The Poetics of Visuality: Ekphrasis, Material Agency, and the Visual Imagination in Biblical Antiquity*, by Justin J. White, *Reviews in Religion and Theology*, 2025.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/ri.14403>
11. *Sex, Celibacy, and Deviance: The Victorians and the Song of Songs*, by Duc Dau. *Reading Religion*, 2024
<https://readingreligion.org/9780814215036/sex-celibacy-and-deviance/>
10. “Writing with the Language of the Past: A Review Essay of G. Brooke Lester, *Daniel Evokes Isaiah: Allusive Characterization of Foreign Rule in the Hebrew-Aramaic Book of Daniel* and Jonathan Gibson, *Covenant Continuity and Fidelity: A Study of Inner-Biblical Allusion and Exegesis in Malachi*.” *Hebrew Studies* 59 (2018): 411–19
9. *The Book of Genesis*, trans. and ed. by Joy A. Schroeder, *Biblical Theology Bulletin* 48 (2018): 166–67
8. *Allusive Soundplay in the Hebrew Bible*, by Jonathan C. Kline. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 80 (2018): 121–23
7. *Reading the Poetry of First Isaiah: The Most Perfect Model of the Prophetic Poetry*, by J. Blake Couey. *Biblical Interpretation* 25 (2017): 429–31
6. *The Artistic Dimension: Literary Explorations of the Hebrew Bible*, by Keith Bodner. *The Journal of Religion* 96 (2016): 260–61
5. *Rediscovering Eve: Ancient Israelite Women in Context*, by Carol Meyers. *Near Eastern Archaeology* 77 (2014): 152–54
4. *Torah*, edited by Irmtraud Fischer and Mercedes Navarro Puerto with Andrea Taschl-Erber. *The Bible and Women: An Encyclopedia of Exegesis and Cultural History*. *Review of Biblical Literature*. 2014
3. *The Song of Songs and the Eros of God: A Study in Biblical Intertextuality*, by Edmee Kingsmill. *Scottish Journal of Philosophy* 66 (2013): 114–15
2. *The World of Women in the Ancient and Classical Near East*, Beth Alpert Nakhai, ed. *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures* 11 (2011):
1. *Silent or Salient Gender? The Interpretation of Gendered God-Language in the Hebrew Bible, Exemplified in Isaiah 42, 46 and 49* by Hanne Løland. *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures* 9 (2009)

Public Scholarship

16. “An Invitation to Biblical Poetry,” *The Distillery Podcast* (March 5, 2025) <https://the-distillery.transistor.fm/episodes/elaine-james-an-invitation-to-biblical-poetry>
15. “I see four men, unbound,” *Earth & Altar Lenten Devotional* (April 6, 2022)
14. [Compassion Camp: What Every Living Thing Needs](#). Summer Curriculum, with Illustrated Children’s Ministries (2022)
13. Interview given at <https://freshtext.fireside.fm/> (November 30, 2021)
12. Interview given at Restorative faith: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/restorative-faith/id1474401571> (September 28, 2021)
11. “[Commentary on Esther 7:1–6, 9–10; 9:20–22](#)” workingpreacher.org (2021)
10. “[Commentary on Jeremiah 31:7–9](#)” workingpreacher.org (2021)
9. “[Commentary on Proverbs 1:20–33](#)” workingpreacher.org (2021)

8. "[Commentary on Proverbs 31:10–31](#)" workingpreacher.org (2021)
7. "The Poetry of Beauty: What Does it Mean to See the Beloved?" <https://www.thetorah.com/article/the-poetry-of-beauty-what-does-it-mean-to-see-the-beloved> Commentary for thetorah.com (2019)
6. "[Commentary on Song of Solomon 2:8-13](#)" workingpreacher.org (2018)
5. "[Jeremiah 23:1-6: A Commentary](#)" workingpreacher.org (2018)
4. "[Amos 7:7-15: A Commentary](#)" workingpreacher.org (2018)
3. "[Job 38:1-11: A Commentary](#)" workingpreacher.org (2018)
2. "The Exotic Garden in the Song of Songs," 2018 <http://www.bibleinterp.com/articles/2018/04/jam428004.shtml>
1. Interview given at Onscript.Study (Dec 15, 2017) <http://onscript.study/podcast/elaine-james-song-of-songs/>

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations (refereed)

23. "Ecologies of Desire," National Society of Biblical Literature, November 2025.
22. "Landscape Aesthetics: Ecology, Art, and the Song of Songs," National Society of Biblical Literature, November 2025
21. "The Middle Voice of Desire: Women's Bodies and the Uncanny Agencies of Plants," International Society of Biblical Literature, Uppsala, June 2025.
20. "New Feminist Directions: The Possibilities of Literature," Catholic Biblical Association, April 25, 2025
19. "Literary, Ecological, and Feminist: Tree Ontology and the Song of Songs," Columbia University Hebrew Bible Seminar Conference, January 9, 2025
18. "What is Creativity? Concepts of Making in the Psalms: A Feminist Critique," National Society of Biblical Literature, November 23, 2024
17. "Food, Gender, and The Aesthetics of Everyday Experience," National Society of Biblical Literature, November 20, 2023
16. "Did Not This One Give Birth To It? Parturition, Creative Power, and Aesthetics in the Hebrew Bible" Upper Midwest Regional Society of Biblical Literature, St. Peter, MN, April 1, 2022
15. "Misogyny's Logic: Feminist Readings of the Song of Songs," National Society of Biblical Literature, November 23, 2021
14. "The Psalms, Animism, and Ideology," National Society of Biblical Literature, December 2, 2020
13. "The Psalms and the Anthropocene," Rooted and Grounded: A Conference on Land and Christian Faith, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, IN, September 28, 2018
12. "Voicing Violence: Women, Solidarity, and Estrangement in Biblical Poetry," International Society of Biblical Literature, Helsinki, Finland, August 2, 2018
11. "Making Images: The Aesthetic Impulse in Prophetic Poetry," with Sean Burt, National Society of Biblical Literature; Boston, MA, November 19, 2017
10. "What Kind of Poets Were the Prophets?" with J. Blake Couey, National Society of Biblical Literature; Boston, MA, November 20, 2017
9. "Making Images: Creativity in Biblical Hebrew Poetry," Upper Midwest Regional Society of Biblical Literature; Saint Paul, MN, April 1, 2017
8. "The Loud World: Silence and Speech in Psalm 65," National Society of Biblical Literature; Atlanta, GA, November 22, 2015

7. "Battle of the Sexes: Gender and the City in the Song of Songs," Upper Midwest Regional Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Saint Paul, MN, April 18, 2015
6. "Finding Obed: Ecological Crisis and Agricultural Fidelity in the Book of Ruth," Rooted and Grounded: A Conference on Land and Christian Faith, Hosted by Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, IN, September 18, 2014
5. "'They Plowed My Back,' Reexamining a Metaphor in Psalm 129," Upper Midwest Regional Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Saint Paul, MN, April 4, 2014
4. "'Eat, Friends, Drink!' Food in the Song of Songs," National Society of Biblical Literature; Baltimore, MD, November 25, 2013
3. "'Speaking a Word for Nature,' Anthropocentrism in the Song of Songs," National Society of Biblical Literature; Chicago, IL, November 18, 2012
2. "The Lovers' Almanac: Song of Songs 7:11–17," Mid-Atlantic Regional SBL, March 15, 2012
1. "'Zophar's Grotesque Imagination: The Character of Job's Third Interlocutor,'" Mid-Atlantic Regional Society of Biblical Literature, March 12, 2010

Invited Lectures and Talks

29. "Greening Desire: Plants in the Song of Songs," Robert S. Mason Lecture, Georgetown University, April 14, 2026
28. "Eros and the Ancient Middle East," *Eros Across Time and Tradition: A Philosophical Symposium*, University of Kentucky, February 21, 2026
27. "Thinking with Art: The Work of Biblical Poetry," Theodore F. Adams Lecture, University of Richmond, November 2, 2025
26. "Does Poetry Lie? Biblical Prophecy," invited lecture for Rhiannon Graybill, "Prophets," University of Richmond, November 2, 2025
25. "Biblical Poetry and the Song of Songs," invited lecture for Liane Feldman, "Who Wrote the Bible?" Princeton University, April 1, 2025
24. "Poetry of Psalms," invited lecture for Martin Tel, "Psalms in Christian Worship," Princeton Theological Seminary, February 7, 2025
23. "The Future of Biblical Poetry," *The Many Lives of Biblical Poems: A Scholars' Roundtable*, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, October 8, 2024
22. "Aesthetics Without Objects: Methodological Reflections on Reading Ancient Poetry," Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, June 3, 2024
21. "You Became (Somehow) A Tree: Creating Visual and Verbal Images in the Song of Songs," The Cheltenham Conference, University of Gloucestershire, May 30, 2024
20. "Qohelet and Everyday Aesthetics," The Birmingham Biblical Studies Seminar, May 8, 2024
19. "The Literary Gigantic in the Hebrew Bible: Experiencing Time in Imaginary Space," Jewish Monumentalism, The Johns Hopkins University, May 7, 2024
18. "Aesthetics of the Everyday: Qohelet and Women's Arts," Columbia University, The Columbia University Hebrew Bible Seminar, April 17, 2024
17. "Aesthetics and the Hebrew Bible," The 35th annual Iwry Lecture, The Johns Hopkins University, Department of Near Eastern Studies, October 30, 2023
16. "Exemplary Creativity: Bezalel and the Aesthetics of the Tabernacle Project," Colloquium for Biblical Research, Princeton, NJ, August 8, 2023
15. "The Psalms and The Speaking World: Poetry, Animacy, and Enchantment," Omaha, NE, Catholic Biblical Association, July 23, 2023
14. "The Ideas of Biblical Poetry: Aesthetics and Literary History," with Steven Weitzman, Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion, April 15, 2023
13. "Pregnancy and Knowledge: Creativity and Procreativity in Biblical Texts," Denver, CO,

Colloquium for Biblical and Near Eastern Studies, November 19, 2022

12. "A Word to the Wise," Convocation Address, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, August 31, 2022
11. "Landscapes of the Song of Songs," Greenberg Book Conversations, Joyce Z. and Jacob Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies, The University of Chicago, Tuesday, May 11, 2021
10. "Transformed, Reformed, Deformed: Acrostics and Radical Aesthetics," New York, Columbia Bible Seminar, September 22, 2020
9. "How Can Linguistics Speak to Poetry?" Response to Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew/Biblical Hebrew Poetry joint session, San Diego, CA, Society of Biblical Literature, November 25, 2019
8. "Sexism, Misogyny, and Feminist Hermeneutics: Reading *The Song of Songs* in a #MeToo Era," "Let Me Hear Your Voice! *The Song of Songs*, Women, and Public Discourse," University of Chicago Divinity School, June 4, 2019
7. "Landscapes of the Song of Songs: Poetry and Place," Alumnae Keynote Talk, St. Catherine University, St. Paul, MN January 25, 2019
6. "Imagining the Earth: The Psalms and Augustine," with Sarah Stewart-Kroeker, Imaginer la Terre, Colloque CUSO, Université de Genève, October 11, 2018
5. "'Silence is Praise': Art and Knowledge in Psalm 65," University of Minnesota, Classical and Near Eastern Studies Colloquium, Minneapolis, MN, April 19, 2017
4. "Women and Gender in the Song of Songs," Women and the Hebrew Bible, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, April 19, 2017
3. "Food, Beauty, and Justice: Thinking about Eating with the Song of Songs," Keynote address, Just Food Conference, Princeton Theological Seminary; Princeton, NJ, Sept. 23, 2016
2. "Henna with Nard: Garden Exoticism and the 'Natural' World," Twin Cities Bible Colloquium, Saint Paul, MN, June 6, 2015
1. "'The Parting of the Ways': Emerging Christianity and Judaism in the Early Centuries CE," invited lecture for "Contemporary Judaism," Rabbi Amy Eilberg, St. Catherine University, 2014

Community Talks

56. "Reimagining Pastoral Pedagogy: Princeton Theological Seminary Faculty Panel," Farminary 10th Anniversary Celebration, Princeton, NJ, September 25, 2025
55. "The Water's Edge," Chapel Island, Upper Saranac Lake, NY, July 27, 2025
54. "Ecclesiastes and Women's Arts: Aesthetics of the Everyday," Princeton Theological Seminary reunion, May 12, 2025
- 52.–53. "Creation and Poetry," Trinity Church Retreat Center, West Cornwall, CT, October 25–27, 2024. Talks: "What Will We Drink? Poetry and Water," "A Locked Garden: Poetry and Plants"
51. "Wisdom, Poetry, and Women: Proverbs 31," Nassau Presbyterian Church, Princeton, NJ, October 22, 2024
50. "Invitation to Poetry," Life Together, Princeton Theological Seminary, October 14, 2025
49. "Water is Alive: The Agency and Power of Our Most Precious Resource," *First Thursdays at the Farm*, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, September 5, 2024
48. "Where Does Your Water Come From?" Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church, Basking Ridge, NJ, April 20, 2024
47. "Joel and Climate Grief," Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Hopewell, NJ, April 22, 2023
46. "Strong as Death," Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, February 14, 2023
- 42.–45. Lecture Series on the Psalms: "The Rhythm of the Poetry: Psalm 19," "Images and Imagination: Psalm 65," "The More-than-Human World: Psalm 104," "Crying for Justice: Psalm 137," Congregation Adath Jeshurun, Elkins Park, PA, November 15–December 6, 2022

- 35.–41. Lecture Series on the Song of Songs: “Embodiment and Holism: Reading the Poetry of the Song of Songs”: “The Song of Songs and The Centrality of Love,” “The Art of Attention: What Does Poetry Require?” “Ecology, Gardening, and Presence,” “Eating Well: Food, Justice, and Sufficiency,” “Sex, Self, and Other: Learning to Care,” “The Place of Place: Coming Home,” Spring Bible Study, Allegheny Mennonite Conference, Mt. Laurel, PA, April 25–28, 2022
34. “The Texts of the Hebrew Bible,” The Pennington School, Pennington, NJ, November 30, 2021
33. “Birds Sing, St. Francis Dances,” Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, October 4, 2021
32. “Marking Ourselves with Joy,” St. John the Evangelist Episcopal, St. Paul, MN, April 11, 2021
- 30.–31. “Nothing New Under the Sun,” and “Hope and the Ethics of Enjoyment,” Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey, Trenton, NJ, March 30, 2021
- 28.–29. Lecture Series on Prophetic Poetry: “Prophets: What is Biblical Prophecy?” and “Prophets: What is Prophetic Poetry?” Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Hopewell, NJ, October 18 and 25, 2020
27. “English Bible Translations: Legacies and Lasting Questions,” Trinity Church, Princeton, NJ, October 11, 2020
26. “The Body and The Earth: Song 2:8–17,” Women’s Center Bible Study, Princeton Theological Seminary, October 2, 2020
25. [“The Book of Ruth: Faithfulness for Troubled Times,”](#) Office Hours, hosted by Dr. Brennan Breed and Dr. Christopher Holmes, September 20, 2020
24. “Prayers for a Plague: Psalm 91 and Global Pandemic,” SecondFirst Church, Rockford, IL, March 29, 2020
23. “The Song of Songs and Women’s Poetry,” The Pennington School, Pennington, NJ, March 3, 2020
22. “The Song of Songs and Radical Gardening” Overbrook Presbyterian Church, Bryn Mawr, PA, November 3, 2019
- 17.–21. Lecture series on biblical poetry for St. Rose of Lima/Corpus Christi Catholic Church, “Form and Vision,” “Imagining God,” “The Voice of My Beloved,” “Reading Today,” Roseville, MN, February 25–March 18 2019
16. “You Belong Here,” St. John The Evangelist Episcopal Church, Saint Paul, MN, July 22, 2018
15. “The Bible and Wholeness,” Ecumenical Service of Worship, Pennington Presbyterian Church, June 10, 2018
- 12.–14. Lecture series on women in Genesis narratives, St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, Saint Paul, MN, Sep 10–Oct 1, 2017
- 8.–11. Lectures series on the letters of Paul, Pax Christi Catholic Community, Edina, MN, Feb 14–April 4, 2017
7. “Biblical Violence and the Human Condition,” St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, Saint Paul, MN, Jan 31, 2016
- 4.–6. Lecture Series on The Book of Judges: “The Book of Judges: The Community of God in Troubled Times,” “The Book of Judges: Undone by a Woman,” and “The Book of Judges: Consider, Take Counsel, and Speak Out,” Pax Christi Catholic Community, Edina, MN, Dec 1–15, 2015
3. “Insiders and Outsiders: Race, Ethnicity, and Community Identity in the Old Testament,” St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, Saint Paul, MN, Dec 21, 2014
2. “Scripture and Piety in Milton’s Sonnets,” Nassau Presbyterian Church, Princeton, NJ, Sept 16, 2012
1. “Christianity and the Environment,” Environmentally Conscious Organization of Seminarians,

Princeton Theological Seminary, Dec 6, 2010

GRANTS

“Approaches, Old and New, to the Study of the Hebrew Bible,” Columbia Hebrew Bible Seminar Regional Conference, in collaboration with Princeton University, Columbia University, and Union Theological Seminary

A major regional conference of scholars and PhD students of Hebrew Bible, held at Princeton Theological Seminary, January 9, 2025, funded by:

Princeton University, Department of Religion	\$2000
Princeton Theological Seminary, Bible Department	\$1000
Columbia University	\$850

“Old Poems Made New: An Evening of Biblical Poetry and Song” and “The Many Lives of Biblical Poems: A Scholars’ Roundtable”

A celebration of biblical poetry and its legacies in art and scholarship, featuring Christian Wiman, Jessica Jacobs, Nathan Salsburg, Yosefa Raz, Ilana Pardes, Chip Dobbs-Allsopp, A. J. Berkovitz, and Elaine James; developed with Steven Weitzman, Director of the Katz Center for Jewish Studies, University of Pennsylvania, and the art@ptsem committee; October 8, 2024, funded by:

The Trustee Fund for Faculty Initiatives, PTS	\$20,000
art@ptsem committee fund	\$ 5,000
The Katz Center for Jewish Studies, University of Pennsylvania	\$ 5,000

“Let Me Hear Your Voice”: Women, *The Song of Songs*, and Public Discourse

A major interdisciplinary conference of women’s voices for women’s voices in public discourse, centered on the ancient text of *The Song of Songs* in historical and contemporary perspectives; co-conceived, co-written, and co-hosted by Elaine James and Simeon Chavel, June 3-5, 2019, funded by:

The Martin Marty Center for the Public Understanding of Religion	\$10,000
The University of Chicago Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies	\$ 7,500
The Franke Institute for the Humanities	\$ 3,900
The University of Chicago Divinity School (Office of the Dean)	\$ 2,500

Faculty Research and Scholarly Activities Grant: “Voicing Violence: Women, Solidarity, and Estrangement in Biblical Poetry,” 2018

Collaborative Undergraduate Research Program, Summer Scholars Grant, St. Catherine University, 2016

Collaborative Undergraduate Research Program, Summer Scholars Grant, St. Catherine University, 2014

The Myser Initiative on Catholic Identity, Curriculum Development Grant, “Reading the Bible With the Dead: Art, History, and the Transformation of the Text,” 2014

Research and Scholarly Activities Grant, “Wendell Berry and the Religious Imagination” St. Catherine University, 2014

HONORS AND PRIZES

The Class of ’55 Award, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2023

The Denny Prize for Distinction in Writing, for the non-fiction essay “Naming the Fish,” St.

Catherine University, 2018
Regional Scholar Award, Mid-Atlantic Regional Society of Biblical Literature, 2013
Howard Clark Kee Award, Mid-Atlantic Regional Society of Biblical Literature, 2010
George S. Green Fellowship for Doctoral Study, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2008–12
John Finley McLaren Prize in Biblical Theology, 2007
Phi Alpha Chi, Gordon College Honors Society, 2002

SERVICE TO PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

16. Faculty Co-Chair, Institutional Self-Study (accrediting bodies: ATS and MSCHE), 2024–27
15. Chair, Old Testament Search Committee, 2024–25
14. Faculty Representative, Advancement and External Relations Board Committee, 2022–23
13. Member, art@ptsem ad hoc Committee, 2022–current
12. Table-to-Table Co-Leader (with Sherry Garrahan), 2024
11. Member, Advisory Committee on Diversity, 2023–24
10. Faculty Co-leader (with Chip Dobbs-Allsopp) Old Testament Studies Cohort, 2022–24
9. Member, New Testament Search Committee, 2022–23
8. Member, Ecological Visioning Team, 2022–2023
7. Chair (elected), Faculty Executive Committee, 2022–23
6. Member, Old Testament Search Committee, 2021–22
5. Admissions Committee Member, 2020–21; 2022–24
4. Faculty Executive Committee (elected), 2022–23
3. Faculty Planning Committee (elected), 2020–22
2. Chair, Admissions Committee, 2020–21
1. Coordinator, Old Testament Research Colloquium, 2020–25

OTHER ACADEMIC SERVICE

Editorial Board, *Forschungen zum Alten Testament*, Mohr Siebeck, 2025–current
Editorial Board, *Biblical Theology Bulletin*, Journal of Bible and Culture, 2025–current
President, Colloquium for Biblical Research, 2025–current
LEAF (Literary, Ecological, and Feminist) Network for Biblical Scholars, co-founder and co-chair, with Rhiannon Graybill, 2024–current
Editorial Board, *Prooftexts, a Journal of Jewish Literary History*, 2025–current
Editorial Board, *Ancient Israel and Its Literature*, Society of Biblical Literature, 2024–current
President, Colloquium for Biblical and Near Eastern Studies, 2023–current
Editorial Board, *Biblical Studies from the Catholic Biblical Association of America* Monograph Series, Paulist Press, 2023–current
Associate Editor, *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*, 2023–current
David Noel Freedman Award Committee, Society of Biblical Literature, 2022
Judge, Biblical Archaeology Society Prize for Best Book on Hebrew Bible, 2021
Co-chair, Ideological Criticism Program Unit, Society of Biblical Literature, 2018–21
President, Upper-Midwest Regional Society of Biblical Literature, 2017–19
Co-chair, Upper-Midwest Regional Society of Biblical Literature, Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Session, 2015–19
Parable of the Sower Program Planning Committee, St. Catherine University, 2018–19

Master of Theology Advisory Committee, St. Catherine University Department of Theology, 2016–2019
Collaborative Research Advisory Committee, St. Catherine University, 2015–19
Co-convener, Arts and Humanities Initiative, St. Catherine University, 2014–19
Coordinator, The Goodman Annual Lecture in Theology, St. Catherine University, 2013–19
Lecturers: Amy Jill Levine, Hanne Løland Levinson, Susannah Heschel, Krista Tippett
Co-founder and Co-coordinator, Twin Cities Bible Colloquium, 2014–19
Theta Alpha Kappa, National Honor Society for Religious Studies and Theology, St. Catherine University Chapter, Coordinator, 2015–19
Vice President, Upper-Midwest Regional Society of Biblical Literature, 2015–17
Team Co-Leader, Collaborative Research Institute for Arts and Humanities, 2014

TEACHING AND ADVISING

Princeton Theological Seminary

Love Poetry (PhD)
Interdisciplinary Seminar in Religion (PhD)
Exegesis of Ecclesiastes
Accelerated Hebrew Reading (PhD)
Orientation to Old Testament Studies
Sex and Gender in the Old Testament
Exegesis of the Song of Songs
Landscape and Ecology in the Old Testament
Literary Approaches to Old Testament Interpretation (PhD)
Creation and Creativity
Biblical Lands Travel Course

Ph.D. Dissertation Advising

Dissertation Director, Yudai Chida, Ph.D. Diss., “Biblical Reception and Japanese Modernity”
Dissertation Director, Andrew Garbarino, Ph.D. Diss., “The Psalms and Sublime Aesthetics: Poetry at the Limits of Prayer and Praise,” 2025
Dissertation Committee, Leslie G. Virnelson, Ph.D. Diss., “Women, Work, and Society in the Hebrew Bible,” 2023
Dissertation Committee, Ryan Armstrong, Ph.D. Diss., “Curiouser and Curiouser: The Mediation and Un-Mediation of Job’s Interlocutors,” 2021

Thesis Advising

Thesis Advisor, Brenna Salverson, “Aesthetics of Eyes,” 2025–26
Thesis Advisor, Noa Bolmenäs, “The Migrant’s God Speaks,” 2024–25
Thesis Co-Advisor, with Dr. Amelia Kennedy, Kathleen Parker, “Embodiment and the Arts,” 2024–25
Thesis Co-Advisor, with Dr. Mark Taylor, Brooke Matejka, “Ex-posing the Body of Christ: A Critical Feminist Re-Imaging of Crucified Bodies,” 2022–23
Thesis Advisor, Emma-Claire Martin, “Sexegesis,” Fall 2022
Thesis Co-Advisor, with Dr. Nathan Stucky, Tara Woodward, “Reading Rural,” MDiv thesis, Spring 2021

Independent Studies at Princeton Theological Seminary

Matthew Green, “Ancient Love Poetry,” Fall 2024

Denise Carrell, “Biblical Poetry and Lament,” Spring 2023

Jenna Morgan, “Indigenous Hermeneutics,” Fall 2022

Katherine Walker, “The House of the Mother: Engaging Birth with the Song of Songs,” Fall 2021

Alex Colter, “Shore Odes in Modern American Poetry,” Fall 2021

Madeline Baas, Alex Miller-Knaack, Nicole Zimmerman, Rory Chambers, “Song of Songs and Contemporary Purity Culture,” Fall 2019

Faculty Mentor at Princeton Theological Seminary

Morgan Proffitt-Davis, Teaching Ministry Program (2022–23)

Esther Chiang, Teaching Ministry Program (2021–22)

St. Catherine University

Old Testament Texts: A Critical Study (graduate seminar)

Theological Questions

Passion, Violence, Praise: Exploring the Old Testament

Women, Gender, and the Bible

The Reflective Woman (interdisciplinary humanities seminar)

Reading the Bible with the Dead (interdisciplinary Honors seminar, co-taught with Dr. Rachel Neiwert)

Poetry and Politics: The Bible and the Modern Middle East (interdisciplinary Honors seminar, co-taught with Dr. Hella Cohen)

Independent Studies and Thesis Advising at St. Catherine University

Biblical Hebrew, Fall 2018

Shannon Tacheney, “Daughters of Zelophehad,” 2016

Haley Mathison, “Song of Songs,” 2014

PEER REVIEWS OF MANUSCRIPTS

Association for Jewish Studies Review

The Bible & Critical Theory

The Catholic Biblical Quarterly

Horizons

Journal of Biblical Literature

Journal of Hebrew Scriptures

Oxford University Press

Palgrave-Macmillan

Religions

Society of Biblical Literature

T&T Clark

Vetus Testamentum

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Colloquium for Biblical Research, 2023–present
Catholic Biblical Association of America, 2017–present
Colloquium for Biblical and Near Eastern Studies, 2019–present
Columbia University Hebrew Bible Seminar, 2019–present
Society of Biblical Literature, 2009–present
The Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment, 2009–2013
College Theology Society, 2013–2019
Theta Alpha Kappa, the National Honor Society for Religious Studies/Theology, 2013–2019