THE BIBLE AND THE HUMANITIES
Launch Conference of the Centre for the Study of the Bible in the Humanities
October 17–18, 2018
Oriel College, Oxford

Wednesday, Oct 17th
8:45 Morning Coffee
9:00 Welcome and Introduction: Graham Ward (Christ Church, Oxford)

9:10–10:30 Session 1
Chair: Martin Goodman (Wolfson, Oxford)
9:10 James Kugel (Harvard University), ‘Reading Scripture, Reading Literature’
9:50 John Barton (Oriel, Oxford), ‘Literary Criticism and the Bible’
10:30 Coffee Break

10:45–12:45 Session 2
Chair: Mark Edwards (Christ Church, Oxford)
10:45 Annette Yoshiko Reed (New York University), ‘The Biblical Past between Memory and Forgetting’
11:25 Christoph Markschies (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), ‘The Revolution of “New Philology” and Digital Editions: Which Bibles Should Be Edited?’
12:05 Holger Zellentin (University of Cambridge), ‘The Qur’anization of Late Antiquity: Methodological Reflections on the Arabic Recasting of the Hebrew Bible’
12:45–1:45 Lunch

1:45–3:15 Session 3
Chair: Paul Joyce (King’s College London)
1:45 Josh Billings (Princeton University) and Laura Quick (Princeton University), ‘Staging the Exodus’
2:35 Olivia Stewart Lester (Loyola University Chicago), ‘The Bible, the Humanities, and the History of the Sibylline Oracles’
3:15 Coffee Break

3:30–5:30 Session 4
Chair: Geoffrey Khan (University of Cambridge)
3:30 Dagmar Schäfer (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science), ‘Un-authorized Knowledge and Objectified Texts: Ming-Chinese Approaches to the Subject’
4:10 Simon Goldhill (University of Cambridge), ‘Strange Dogs: Greek Novellas as Readings of the Bible and Modern Scholarship’s Reading of Greek Novellas’

6:00 Launch Ceremony in the Senior Library
Chair: Wilf Stephenson (Treasurer of Oriel College)
Remarks: Neil Mendoza (Provost of Oriel College); Karen O’Brien (Head of the Humanities Division); Hindy Najman (Director of the Centre for the Study of the Bible in the Humanities, Oriel and Laing Professor of the Interpretation of Holy Scripture)

6.30 Reception in the Senior Common Room
**Thursday, Oct 18th**

8:45 Morning Coffee

**9:00 Opening Remarks:** Jaś Elsner (Corpus Christi, Oxford)

**9:05–11:05 Session 5**

**Chair:** Jaś Elsner (Corpus Christi, Oxford)

- 9:05 Judith Schlanger (President, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies; Corpus Christi, Oxford), ‘Bible and Manuscript Studies: Some Remarks on the Materiality of the Bible in the Middle Ages’
- 9:45 Constanze Güthenke (Corpus Christi, Oxford), ‘Philology and Community’

11:05 Coffee Break

**11:20–12:40 Session 6**

**Chair:** Adriana Jacobs (St Cross, Oxford)

- 12:00 Steven Fraade (Yale University), ‘The Bible, Translation, and the Humanities: The View from Early Rabbinic Texts (and Beyond)’

12:40–2:00 Lunch

**2:00–3:20 Session 7**

**Chair:** Yaacov Yadgar (St Anne’s, Oxford)

- 2:00 Kirk Wetters (Yale University), ‘Exiting the Chamber of the Past: Model Precursors in Goethe’s Wilhelm Meister Novels’
- 2:40 Benjamin Pollock (Hebrew University), ‘Franz Rosenzweig on the Bible and the Language of Humanity’

3:20 Coffee Break

**3:40–5:40 Session 8**

**Chair:** Scott Scullion (Worcester, Oxford)

- 3:40 Jan Joosten (Christ Church, Oxford), ‘Biblical Rhetoric and the Western Tradition’
- 5:00 George Brooke (University of Manchester), ‘The Dead Sea Scrolls, the Humanities, and the Study of the Bible’

5:40 Closing Remarks

6.00 Reception