HEBREW BIBLE/OLD TESTAMENT SEMINAR
Convener: Prof Hindy Najman (Oriel)
Location: Harris Seminar Room, Oriel College at 2:30–4.00 p.m.* followed by tea

Michaelmas Term 2017

Week 1: Mon 9 October – Induction (all are welcome)*
*Light lunch is served at 1.30 p.m.
Chair: Hindy Najman (Oriel). For all those in attendance, faculty and students will briefly introduce their work to our subject group.

Weeks 2–5: Joint Seminar with Cambridge on “Translation and Interpretation”
Co-Organizers: James Aitken (Cambridge) and Hindy Najman (Oriel)

Week 2: Mon 16 October (in Oxford)
Chair: James Aitken (Cambridge)
Speakers: Hindy Najman (Oriel) and Arjen Bakker (Oriel) – Conceptual Translation and Transfer of Culture

Chair: James Aitken (Cambridge)
Speaker: Jonathan Stökl (King’s College London) – Catching an Allusion in a Net: Thoughts on the “Translation” of Mesopotamian Motifs, Allusions and Tradition History

Week 4: Mon 30 October (in Oxford)
Chair: Alison Salvesen (Mansfield)
Speakers: Jan Joosten (Christ Church) and Jelle Verburg (St John’s) – Acculturation and Identity: Lexical Choice in the Septuagint

Week 5.1: Wed 8 November (in Cambridge)
Chair: Hindy Najman (Oriel)
Speakers: Marieke Dhont (Metz) and James Aitken (Cambridge) – Cultural Assumptions of the Septuagint Translation

Week 5.2: Thu 9 November – Visit to Oxford’s Ashmolean Museum*
*Meet at entrance of the Ashmolean at 10:00 a.m.
10.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m. viewing exhibition Imagining the Divine
See the website: https://empiresoffaith.com/exhibition/
11.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. presentation in the Headley Lecture Theatre, followed by discussion
Speaker: Jaś Elsner (Corpus Christi)

Week 6: Mon 13 November – Student Presentations (all are welcome)*
*This session will run 2.30-4.30 p.m., tea served at 4.30 p.m.
Chair: Hindy Najman (Oriel)
Rory Turnbull (Oriel) – Life as the Reward for Righteousness in Early Jewish Texts
James Nati (Yale) – Non-Biblical Texts in Textual Criticism: The Case of Serekh ha-Yahad
Itai Kagan (Hebrew University) – The Origin of the Legal Formulae in Jubilees’ Festivals

Week 8: Mon 27 November
Chair: Jan Joosten (Christ Church)
Stephanie Dalley (Oxford) – Kedor-laomer and Genesis 14: 1-16: Some Possible New Light on an Old Problem
Hilary Term 2018

“Old Wine in New Bottles”
Thematic Seminar on Ritual and Innovation

Week 1: Mon 15 January
Introduction to the theme: Sondra Hausner (St Peter’s), Nathan MacDonald (Cambridge), and Hindy Najman (Oriel)
Nathan MacDonald (Cambridge) – Why Do Rituals Change? Towards a Typology of Ritual Change in Early Judaism

Week 2: Mon 22 January*
Judith Newman (Toronto) – How to Invent a Ritual in Early Judaism in Seven Easy Steps
*6.30 OT/HB Dinner: after the OT/HB seminar there will be drinks and dinner in Oriel College (reception in the large SCR followed by dinner in Champneys Room)

Week 3: Mon 29 January
Martti Nissinen (Helsinki) – Why Prophecy Is (Not) Magic?

Please note that in week 4 there is a special OUP session on Wednesday

Week 4: Wed 7 February – Graduate Professionalization Session*
*5:00–6:30 p.m., Harris Seminar Room
Tom Perridge (editor for OUP) – How to Get Your Book Published?

Week 5: Mon 12 February
Jenni Williams (Wycliffe Hall) – A Surprising Absence? Adoption in the Hebrew Bible

Week 6: Mon 19 February – Student Presentations
Judith Clarke (Oriel) – The Liturgical Calendar at Qumran
Elizabeth Stell (Oriel) – TBD
Susannah Rees (Oriel) – TBD
Mark Lester (Yale) – Deuteronomy and the Transmission of Pentatuchal Traditions

Week 7: Mon 26 February
Naphtali Meshel (Princeton) – Levitical Logic and the Science of Ritual

Week 8: Mon 5 March
Jacqueline Vayntrub (Brandeis) – Like Father, Like Son? Theorizing Transmission in Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Literature
Trinity Term 2018

Week 1: 23 April  
Chair: Hindy Najman (Oriel)  
Speaker: Hugh Williamson (Christ Church) – *Decoding Isaiah 13*

Week 2: 30 April  
Chair: Jan Joosten (Christ Church)  
Speaker: John Screnock (Oriental Studies) – *Reading with the Scribes: Psalm 104 through the Lens of Textual Criticism*

Week 3: 7 May  
No session this week.

Week 4: 14 May  
Chair: Hindy Najman (Oriel)  
Speaker: Hywel Clifford (Ripon College Cuddesdon) – *The Shema in its Ancient Near Eastern Setting*

Week 5: 21 May  
Chair: Benjamin Johnson (Wycliffe Hall)  
Speaker: John Day (Lady Margaret Hall) – *"So God created humanity in his own image" (Genesis 1:27). What did the text originally mean and what have theologians and exegetes thought it meant?*

Week 6: 28 May  
Chair: Susan Gillingham (Worcester)  
Speaker: Katherine Dell (Cambridge) – *Wisdom in Exile in Babylon*

Week 7: 4 June – Daylong workshop on Wisdom and Ethics*  
*Begins at 9.00 a.m. and ends at 6.30 p.m. followed by drinks (see separate schedule)*  
Conveners: John Barton (Oriel) and Hindy Najman (Oriel)  
Speakers: John Barton (Oriel); Jan Joosten (Christ Church); Laura Quick (Princeton); Hywel Clifford (Ripon College Cuddesdon); Elisa Uusimäki (Helsinki); Hans Decker (Oriel); Arjen Bakker (Oriel); Mark Edwards (Christ Church); Konrad Schmid (Zurich)  
Respondents: John Jarick (Regent’s Park); Benjamin Wright (Lehigh University); Martin Goodman (Wolfson); Judith Clark (Oriel); Rory Turnbull (Oriel); Markus Bockmuehl (Keble); Olivia Stewart Lester (Theology and Religion); Hindy Najman (Oriel); John Screnock (Oriental Studies)

Week 8: 11 June  
Chair: Hindy Najman (Oriel)  
Speaker: David Lambert (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) – *Beyond Scripture and Interpretation: The Torah as Quasi-Object, Quasi-Subject*