

# Mark Lester

Loyola University Chicago  
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## EDUCATION

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### Yale University

Ph.D. in Religious Studies (Hebrew Bible), December 2020

### Yale Divinity School

M.A.R. in Hebrew Bible, May 2014

### University of Pennsylvania

B.A. in European History, *Magna Cum Laude*, May 2011

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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Full-Time Instructor, Loyola University Chicago (Fall 2022–Present)

Lecturer, Elementary Biblical Hebrew, Yale Divinity School (Summer 2022)

Part-Time Instructor, Loyola University Chicago (Spring 2019–Spring 2022)

Instructor, Elementary Biblical Hebrew, Yale Divinity School (Summer 2017)

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## PUBLICATIONS

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### Books

- 1) *Deuteronomy and the Material Transmission of Tradition*. Supplements to Vetus Testamentum. Leiden: Brill (Accepted for publication; revised manuscript submitted 9/3/23).
- 2) *Objects of Interpretation: Metalepsis and the Making of Early Jewish Literature* (working title). Book project on textual objects, interpretation, and connections to the past in the Hebrew Bible and Second Temple literature (in preparation; one of five chapters drafted).

### Journal Articles

- 1) “Deuteronomy 28:58, CTH 53, and the Rhetoric of Self-Reference.” *Vetus Testamentum* 70 (2020): 645–666.
- 2) “Textual Iconicity in Deuteronomy” (under review).

### Contributions to Edited Volumes

- 1) “Conveying the Covenant: Mechanisms of Persuasion in the Sefire Inscriptions.” Pages 171–182 in *A Sage in New Haven: Studies on the Prophets, the Writings, and the Ancient World in Honor of Robert R. Wilson*. Edited by Carolyn J. Sharp and Alison Acker Gruseke. Ägypten und Altes Testament 117. Münster: Zaphon, 2023.

### Articles and Chapters in Preparation

- 1) “The Poetics of Textual Variants: The Case of 2 Samuel 22 and Psalm 18” (journal article; drafted).
- 2) “Jubilees as Text History.” Invited contribution to Festschrift volume (drafted).
- 3) “Deuteronomy Manuscripts as Efficacious Objects” (journal article; drafted).
- 4) “Self-Reference and Authority in Ancient Near Eastern Inscriptions and Deuteronomy.” Invited contribution to *Deuteronomy* (Formation and Interpretation of Old Testament Literature). Leiden: Brill. Edited by Dominik Markl, Craig A. Evans, Kyung S. Baek (in preparation).

- 5) “Materiality and the Textual Study of the Hebrew Bible in its Ancient Near Eastern Context.” Invited contribution to *Religion Compass* (in preparation).

#### **Dictionary Entries**

- 1) “*Matseivah*.” Invited contribution to *Philological Practices: A Comparative Historical Lexicon*. Princeton University Press. Edited by Anne Eusterschulte, Glenn W. Most and Martin Kern (forthcoming).

#### **Book Reviews**

- 1) Review of *From Adapa to Enoch: Scribal Culture and Religious Vision in Judea and Babylon*, by Seth. L. Sanders. *Ancient Jew Review*, March 26, 2018. Available online: <http://www.ancientjewreview.com/articles/2018/3/9/from-adapa-to-enoch-scribal-culture-and-religious-vision-in-judea-and-babylon>.
- 2) Review of *Strategies of Persuasion in Herodotus’ Histories and Genesis–Kings: Evoking Reality in Ancient Narratives about the Past*, by Eva Tyrell. *Biblica* 103 (2022): 451–454.
- 3) Review of *The Ten Commandments: Monuments of Memory, Belief, and Interpretation*, by Timothy Hogue (in preparation).

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#### **ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES**

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- 1) “Deuteronomic Textuality in Critical Scholarship and Ancient Media.” University of Chicago Hebrew Bible and Early Jewish Reception Workshop, October 25, 2023.
- 2) “The Materiality of Writing in Deuteronomy and Ancient Near Eastern Inscriptions.” Invited public lecture at the University of Bari Aldo Moro, June 13, 2023.
- 3) “Deuteronomy: Manuscripts and Efficacious Objects in the Second Temple Period.” Midwest Regional Biblical Studies Conference, Hebrew Bible Section, South Bend, March 18, 2023.
- 4) “On the Adaptation of Paratexts to Narrative Literature in the ‘Colophon’ of Erra and Ishum and the Song of Moses.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Hebrew Scriptures and Cognate Literature Program Unit, Denver, November 21, 2022.
- 5) “Mechanisms of Persuasion in the Sefire Inscriptions.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Ugaritic Studies and Northwest Semitic Epigraphy Program Unit, Denver, November 19, 2022.
- 6) Panelist and co-organizer for “Subjectivity, Scribal Practice, and the Role of the Textual Scholar” Seminar Session. Society for Textual Scholarship Conference, Loyola University Chicago, May 28, 2022.
- 7) “Remapping Space with Text in Deuteronomy.” Society for Textual Scholarship Conference, Loyola University Chicago, May 27, 2022.
- 8) “Interactive Writing and the Conceptual Geography of Deuteronomy.” Annual Meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies, Chicago, December 21, 2021.
- 9) “Deuteronomy’s (Anti-)Royal Inscription.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Book of Deuteronomy Program Unit, San Antonio, November 23, 2021.
- 10) “Pragmatics and Performativity in Azatiwada’s Dedicatory Inscription.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Ugaritic Studies and Northwest Semitic Epigraphy Program Unit, San Diego, November 25, 2019.
- 11) “Self-Reference, Circulation, and Preservation in Esarhaddon’s Succession Treaty.” University of Chicago Hebrew Bible Workshop, April 15, 2019.

- 12) “The Words of Moses and the Transmission of the Covenant.” Chicago-Yale Pentateuch Colloquium, Chicago, February 14, 2019.
- 13) “Deictic Reference in Deuteronomy.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Book of Deuteronomy Program Unit, Denver, November 19, 2018.
- 14) “Textual Iconicity in Deuteronomy.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Society for Comparative Research on Iconographic and Performative Texts Affiliated Unit, Denver, November 17, 2018.
- 15) “Multimodality and Cultural Transmission in Ancient Near Eastern Treaty Traditions.” International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Ancient Near East Program Unit, Helsinki, August 1, 2018.
- 16) Closing Remarks. Conference on “Inscribing Death: Memorial and the Transmission of Text in the Ancient World.” Yale University, February 23, 2018.
- 17) “Typology and Spatial Temporality in the Old Testament Program at the Church of the Virgin Peribleptos, Ohrid.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Art and Religions of Antiquity Program Unit, Boston, November 18, 2017.
- 18) “The Poetics of Two Textual Variants in 2 Samuel 22 and Psalm 18: Comparing Poetry in Double Transmission” (Presented at the Yale Hebrew Bible Workshop; February 1, 2017).
- 19) “4Q365 and 4Q365a: Re-Examining 4QReworked Pentateuch in Light of Its State of Material Preservation and Its Physical Reconstruction.” The Ninth Meeting of the International Organization for Qumran Studies, Leuven, July 20, 2016.
- 20) “Strategies of Self-Preservation in Deuteronomy and West Semitic Inscriptional Texts.” Annual Meeting of the European Association of Biblical Studies, Leuven, July 18, 2016.
- 21) “Writing an Icon: A Social and Intellectual History of ‘Torah.’ The Case of Deuteronomy.” Yale University Hebrew Bible Workshop, February 22, 2016.
- 22) “Textual Iconicity: On the Signifying Functions of Text-Objects in the Hebrew Bible.” Yale University Interdisciplinary Working Group for the Study of Antiquity, February 16, 2016.
- 23) “Epigraphic Modes of Discourse and Ritual Materiality in Deuteronomy.” Yale University Hebrew Bible Workshop, April 6, 2015.
- 24) “Daniel and the Lion’s Den and the Ancient Near Eastern Judicial Ordeal.” Yale University Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations Roundtable, November 3, 2014.

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#### COURSES TAUGHT

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##### *Undergraduate*

*Introduction to Religious Studies*, Loyola University Chicago (2019–Fall 2023; 18 sections)

*Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*, Loyola University Chicago (2020–Fall 2023; 5 sections)

##### *Graduate*

Elementary Biblical Hebrew Summer Intensive, Yale Divinity School (Summer 2017, 2022)

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#### OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- 1) Invited Guest Lecturer for *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*, Indiana University (February 16, 2022).
- 2) Guest Facilitator for University of Oxford Biblical Hebrew Reading Group (February 8 and May 3, 2018).
- 3) Teaching Fellow, *Old Testament Interpretation*, Yale Divinity School (Fall 2017, for John Collins). Guest lectured on October 25, 2017.

- 4) Teaching Fellow, *The Bible as Literature*, Yale University, (Spring 2017, for Leslie Brisman).
- 5) Teaching Fellow, *Old Testament Interpretation*, Yale Divinity School (Fall 2016, for Joel Baden).
- 6) Invited Guest Instructor for *Prophetic and Apocalyptic Voices*, Fairfield University, November 3, 2016.
- 7) Teaching Fellow, *Foundations in Education Studies*, Yale University, (Spring 2014, for Elizabeth Carroll).

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#### PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

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Yale Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning

- 1) "Theory and Practice of Online Teaching." Four-session workshop on best practices for remote and hybrid teaching. July 7–16, 2020.
- 2) Advanced Teaching Workshops:
  - "How to Use a Technology Enabled Classroom." September 28, 2017
  - "Peer Observation Workshop." October 3, 2017
  - "Mentoring Undergraduates." October 26, 2017
  - "How to Prepare and Deliver an Effective Lecture." November 7, 2017
  - "Teaching with and without Technology." November 27, 2017
  - "Gender in the Classroom." November 30, 2017
  - "Inclusive Assessment Practices." December 5, 2017
  - "Politics in the Classroom." December 7, 2017
- 3) "Fundamentals of Teaching in the Humanities." Four-week workshop on moderating inclusive discussion, teaching evaluations, and grading and assessments. Fall 2016.
- 4) "Teaching Day at Yale." August 29, 2016.

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#### AWARDS AND HONORS

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Nomination for Faculty Center for Ignatian Pedagogy Teaching Award for Part-Time Instructor-Practitioners, Loyola University, December 2021

Sheridan Fellowship, Yale University, 2018

MacMillan International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Yale University, 2018

Judaic Studies Travel Grant, Yale University, 2016, 2018

Brady Fellowship, Yale University, 2015-2016

Summer Language Institute Fellowship, Yale University, 2015

Two Brothers Travel Fellowship, Yale Divinity School, 2012, 2013

Sidney Lovett Scholarship, Yale Divinity School, 2011-2014

Dean's List, University of Pennsylvania, 2011

Phi Alpha Theta, History Honor Society, University of Pennsylvania, 2011

College Alumni Society Board of Managers and Presidents Undergraduate Research Grant, University of Pennsylvania, 2010

Brenner Jewish Studies Award, University of Pennsylvania, 2009, 2010

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#### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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Co-organizer, Midwest Regional Meeting for Biblical Studies (formerly Midwest Regional SBL) (2023–present).

Steering Committee Member, Space Place and Lived Experience in Antiquity Section, Society for Biblical Literature (2022–2025).

Co-Chair, Hebrew Bible Section, Midwest Region of the Society of Biblical Literature (2021–present).

Manuscript Peer-Review for *Biblica* (2020–present).

Conference Organizer, “Inscribing Death: Memorial and the Transmission of Text in the Ancient World,” with Joel Baden and Jacqueline Vayntrub (Yale University, February 22-23, 2018).

Co-Organizer, *Archaia Forum* (Organized and secured funding for interdisciplinary graduate workshop. Fall 2017).

Founder and Organizer, *Yale Hebrew Bible Workshop* (Organized and secured funding for a monthly meeting of faculty and Ph.D. students in the field of Hebrew Bible, 2014-2016).

Manuscript Peer-Review and Editorial Assistance for *Journal of Anglican Studies* (2015).

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#### ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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Visiting Scholar, Loyola University Chicago (Fall 2018).

Recognized Student, Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford (Hilary - Trinity Term 2018).

Participant in Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies Summer Workshop, “Hebrew Manuscript Studies: Codicology, Palaeography, Art History,” (June 29 to July 12, 2018).

Graduate Qualification in Archaia: The Yale Program for the Study of Ancient and Premodern Cultures and Societies (2017).

Participant in Study Tour to Late Byzantine Churches in Serbia, Kosovo, and Macedonia for “Art and Ritual at Mount Sinai” seminar taught by Robert Nelson and Vasileios Marinis (March 2016).

Tutor in Elementary Biblical Hebrew (2016).

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#### RESEARCH, REVIEW, AND EDITORIAL WORK

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##### *Archaeological Work*

1) Leon Levy Expedition to Ashkelon

Square Supervisor (2014)

Assistant Square Supervisor (2010; 2012)

Volunteer and Field School Participant (2009)

2) Al-Hiba Excavation Publication Project, Penn Museum

Research Assistant (Assisted in creating a digital archive of records for the Metropolitan Museum of Art and NYU Archaeological Expedition at al-Hiba, Iraq; presented preliminary typology of Early Dynastic Period ceramics to P.I., Holly Pittman, Bok Family Professor in the Humanities. 2010-2011).

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#### RESEARCH LANGUAGES

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Hebrew (Biblical, Qumran, Mishnaic), Aramaic (Biblical, Qumran, Targumic), Ugaritic, Phoenician, Akkadian, Greek (Koine), French (Reading), German (Reading), Modern Hebrew (Reading)

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#### PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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Society of Biblical Literature

Association for Jewish Studies

Catholic Biblical Association

Chicago Society for Biblical Research

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## LIST OF REFERENCES

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Robert Di Vito  
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John J. Collins  
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