

Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) International Meeting 2022 Salzburg

The acronym SBL IM 2022 Salzburg stands for a major event that will take place in 2022, the year in which the 400th birthday of the University of Salzburg is celebrated: the international meeting (IM) of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL). From the 17th of July till the 21st of July 2022 ca. 1200 to 1500 academics in the field of biblical studies and the like will descend on Salzburg!

The SBL is a scholarly organization which was established in 1880 in the USA. Its members are scholars who teach and research the variety of fields that make up biblical studies. It is the oldest and largest society devoted to the critical investigation of the Bible from a variety of academic disciplines. It is an interdisciplinary, humanistic, academic society that includes scholars of history, literature, archaeology, anthropology, theology and more. It is also one of the eldest members of the American Council of Learned Societies (since 1929). It produces its own 3 journals, 20 series, and a plethora of diverse electronic resources and educational tools (such as for instance, the Bible Odyssey on bibleodyssey.org). It works in cooperation with a variety of other learned societies and sister organizations. Each year it holds smaller regional meetings, one large national meeting and an international meeting. The SBL promotes cooperation across global boundaries by holding yearly meetings outside the borders of North America.

The SBL has about 8324 members, the majority of which are persons teaching undergraduates, masters and doctoral students in a variety of departments (from the traditional biblical, divinity or theological departments through linguistics, Near Eastern and Greek, till the archaeology, history, African, Asian, Women's studies departments, etc.), and doing research in an academic setting. They come from ca. 134 countries world-wide and represent a variety of racial, ethnic and religious traditions.

For the yearly national meeting, the SBL works together with *i.a.* the American Academy of Religion (AAR). The latter has about 8000 members worldwide. The SBL and AAR have held joint meetings for a long time, which means that these two groups hold concurrent annual meetings in the same city at the same time. These annual meetings are attended by some 8500 to 9000 participants. The program of the SBL national meeting is created by the chairs of the 169 ongoing SBL program units and the 21 sister organizations and the chairs of the more than 150 AAR program units. Even in the corona year of 2020, the joint meeting of the SBL and AAR took place, with 903 virtual sessions, spread out over 11 days, and attended by ca. 7000 participants. Besides the academic program the SBL and AAR also invite more than 150 publishers to attend their exhibit hall, and offer, in the Employment Centre, plenty of convenient and private settings for universities to interview candidates for jobs. Given the amount of participants attending, the joint meetings of SBL and AAR can only take place in cities with major congress infrastructure (Chicago, Atlanta, San Diego, Boston, etc.).

The international meeting takes place on a smaller scale. Since 1983, the SBL IM have taken place in major academic cities such as Salamanca, Strasbourg, Amsterdam, Jerusalem, Vienna, Rome, Melbourne, Louvain, Cambridge, Cape Town, Helsinki, Singapore, London, Buenos Aires, Seoul, Berlin, etc. In 2022, the meeting will happen for the first time in Salzburg.

The Salzburg program is organized by the International Meeting 48 program units and their international chairs and by the local committee in collaboration with the Council of the Society. The ca. 60 program units will each run about 2 sessions with each offering about 5 to 6 papers.

As many academic societies and scholarly organizations are moving towards more interdisciplinary work, the SBL IM 2022 in Salzburg will devote several sessions to the following topics:

- Scribes and Texts: Interrogating the Power and the Privilege of Texts
- Canons and Curricula in Values Production
- Bibles and Canons of Literature
- Bibles and Canons of Law
- Bibles and the Classics Debate
- Bibles and Texts in East and South Asian Contexts
- Bibles, Other Privileged Texts, and the Arts

Want to propose a paper? Go online (www.sbl-site.org), register, then propose a paper through the online system.

Want to participate? Go online (www.sbl-site.org) and register.

Want to volunteer? Email kristin.detroyer@sbg.ac.at

Want to receive more info? Email kristin.detroyer@sbg.ac.at

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