

Simeon B. Chavel
Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible
The University of Chicago Divinity School

APPOINTMENTS

- The University of Chicago Divinity School (2009–present)
- Lecturer, Princeton University, Department of Religion, Program in Judaic Studies (2006–2009)
- Instructor, Haifa University, Department of Bible (2005–2006)
- Instructor, The Hebrew University, Department of Bible, Rothberg School for Overseas Students, Melton Center for Jewish Education (2000–2005)

EDUCATION

- PH.D. Department of Bible, The Hebrew University, December 2006 (Advisor: Israel Knohl)
Thesis: *Law and Narrative in Four "Oracular Novellae" in the Pentateuch: Lev 24:10–23; Num 9:1–14; 15:32–36; 27:1–11*
- M.A. Religious Studies, Indiana University Bloomington, June 1995 (Advisor: James Ackerman)
Thesis: *'Nabal Redivivus!' — David's Response to Nathan's Ewe-Lamb Parable in 2 Sam 12:1–7*
- B.A. English Literature, Yeshiva University, January 1992

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

1. *Oracular Law and Priestly Historiography in the Torah* (FAT II, 71; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2014)
2. Ed. with Elaine T. James, *Reading the Song of Songs in a #MeToo Era: Women, Sex, and Public Discourse* (Leiden: Brill, June 2023)

ARTICLES

1. "'Let My People Go!' Emancipation, Revelation, and Scribal Activity in Jer. 34.8–14," *JSOT* 76 (1997) 71–95
2. "At the Boundary of Textual and Literary Criticisms: The Case of כִּי in Lev 20:9," *Textus* 20 (2000) 61–70
3. "Leviticus 24: Appendix D — Lev 24:10-23: Apostasy in H," in Jacob Milgrom, *Leviticus 23–27* (Anchor Bible; New York: Doubleday, 2001) 2140–2145
4. "Compositry and Creativity in 2 Sam 21:1–14," *JBL* 122 (2003) 23–52
5. "The Second Passover, Pilgrimage and the Centralized Cult," *HTR* 102 (2009) 1–24
6. "'Oracular Novellae' and Biblical Historiography: Through the Lens of Law and Narrative," *Clio* 39 (2009) 1–27
7. "Num 15:32–36 — A Microcosm of the Living Priesthood and Its Literary Production," in *The Strata of the Priestly Writings: Contemporary Debate and Future Directions* (ed. S. Shechtman and J. Baden; Zürich: Theologischer Verlag, 2009) 45–55
8. "The Legal Literature," in *The Literature of the Hebrew Bible: Introductions and Studies* (ed. Zipora Talshir; 2 vols.; Jerusalem: Yad Ben-Zvi Press, 2011), vol. 1, pp. 227–272 [Hebrew]
9. "The Literary Development of Deuteronomy 12: Between Religious Ideal and Social Reality," in *The Pentateuch: International Perspectives on Current Research* (ed. T. Dozeman, K. Schmid, and B.J. Schwartz; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2011) 303–326
10. "The Face of God and the Etiquette of Eye-Contact: Visitation, Pilgrimage and Prophetic Vision in Ancient Israelite and Early Jewish Imagination," *JSQ* 19 (2012) 1–55

11. "Prophetic Imagination in the Light of Narratology and Disability Studies in Isaiah 40–48," *JHS* 14.3 (2014) 1–48
12. "A Kingdom of Priests and its Earthen Altars in Exodus 19–24," *VT* 65 (2015) 169–222
13. with Mira Balberg, "The Polymorphous Pesaḥ: Ritual Between Origins and Reenactment," *JAJ* 8/3 (2017) 292–343
14. "Knowledge of the Lord in the Hebrew Bible," *KNOW* 2/1 (2018) 47–83
15. "The Utility and Futility of Poetry in *Qohelet*," in *Biblical Poetry and the Art of Close Reading* (ed. Elaine James and J. Blake Couey; Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018) 93–110
16. with Jessie DeGrado, "Text- and Source-Criticism of 1 Samuel 17–18: A Complete Account," *VT* 70 (2020) 553–580
17. "Yahweh Become a Temple? MT Ezekiel 11:16 מִקְדָּשׁ מִקְדָּשׁ Revisited," in *Contextualizing Jewish Temples: Challenges and Opportunities* (ed. T. Ganzel and S. Holtz; Leiden: Brill, 2021) 103–122
18. "Biblical 'Alternation' and Its Poetics," in "*Like 'Ilu Are You Wise': Studies in Northwest Semitic Languages and Literatures in Honor of Dennis G. Pardee* (ed. H.H. Hardy II, J. Lam, and E.D. Reymond; Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization, 73; Chicago: The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, 2022) 179–203
19. "Song of Songs 1:1—Text and Paratext," *VT* 73/2 (2023) 220–238
20. with Elaine T. James, "Introduction: The Song of Songs and Women's Voices," in *Reading the Song of Songs in a #MeToo Era: Women, Sex, and Public Discourse*: (ed. E. James and S. Chavel; Leiden: Brill, June 2023) 1–12 [in press]
21. "The Speaker of *The Song of Songs* and Her Publics," in *Reading the Song of Songs in a #MeToo Era: Women, Sex, and Public Discourse*: (ed. E. James and S. Chavel; Leiden: Brill, June 2023) 62–90 [in press]
22. "Intergenerational Punishment: A New History," in *The Pentateuch and Its Readers* (ed. J. Baden and J. Stackert; FAT; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2023) 285–306 [in press]
23. "The Biblical Legal Collections: The Narrative Context of the Collections," in *The Cambridge Companion to Law in the Hebrew Bible* (ed. Bruce Wells; Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press) [in press]

PRESENTATIONS (SELECT)

1. "The Shape of Canon — Law and Narrative from the Bible to Rabbinic Literature," *The Department of Hebrew Culture, Tel-Aviv University, 20 March 2006* [Hebrew]
2. "Israeli Currents in Pentateuchal Studies — in the Wake of Wellhausen's *Prolegomena*," *Pentateuchal Panel, Princeton Theological Seminary, 6 February 2007*
3. "Religious Thought and Political Text in Ancient Israel and Judah in the Eighth and Seventh Centuries BCE," *Political Hebraism: Jewish Sources in the History of Political Thought, Princeton University, September 7–9, 2008*
4. "The Imagined Beginnings of the World and of Humanity in Genesis 1–3," *Imagined Beginnings: The Poetics and Politics of Cosmogony, Theogony and Anthropogony in the Ancient World, The Center for the Study of Ancient Religions at the University of Chicago and the Midwest Consortium on Ancient Religions, April 8–10, 2011*
5. "Literary Theory and Biblical Literature: Levels of Speakers in *Qohelet* and *Song of Songs*," *Society of Biblical Literature National Meeting, Baltimore, 23–26 November 2013*
7. "The Argumentative Nature of Ancient Authors and Their Biblical Works: The Law Codes," *Beyond the Book: Rethinking Biblical Religion, University of Michigan, 8 December 2016*
8. "Genesis 10 and Related Texts," *First Annual Chicago-Yale Pentateuch Colloquium, The University of Chicago, 5–6 February 2017*
9. "Divine Presence and Its Representation in the Elohistic and Priestly Histories," *Society of Biblical Literature National Meeting, Boston, 18–21 November 2017*
10. "Intertextuality in Biblical Law," *Second Annual Chicago-Yale Pentateuch Colloquium, Yale University, 25–27 February 2018*

11. "Ezekiel ben Buzi, the Raggedy-Ann Prophet," *Society of Biblical Literature International Meeting, Helsinki, 30 July–3 August 2018*
12. "The Life and Stratigraphy of Stones in Deuteronomy 27 and Related Texts," *Third Annual Chicago-Yale Pentateuch Colloquium, The University of Chicago, 13–15 February 2019*
- 13–14. *The University of Texas Austin, 5 March 2019*
 - "Poetic Justice and the Conundrum in Biblical Law: 'An Eye for an Eye' and Other Troublesome Formulas"
 - "The Art of Divine Presence: Adoring Eyes, Pointing Fingers, and Other Meaningful Motifs"
15. In Hebrew: "The *Song of Songs* — a Single Song and a Coherent Composition (שיר השירים - שיר אחד וחיבור אחד)," *Haifa University Bible Workshop, 21 December 2020*
16. "Qohelet and Job as Genre-Breakers of Wisdom and Theology," *European Association of Biblical Studies, Wuppertal, 2–5 August 2021*
18. "The Hammurapi Monuments and the Pentateuchal Sources," *Introductions to works of halakha, 2022–2023* [online seminar hosted by Yair Lauberbaum]
17. "The Torah in the Persian Period: The Historical Conditions for its Reception and its Reception in *Ruth*," *The Chicago-Yale Pentateuch Colloquium, 26–28 Feb 2023*
18. with Sarah Yardney, "The Song of Songs in CEDAR on OCHRE: Capabilities and Potential," *Conference of CEDAR Streams, the University of Chicago, May 22, 2023*
19. "The 'Divine Attributes' in the 'Ten Commandments,'" in *The Ten Commandments: A Symposium at the University of Chicago, 23 May 2023*
20. "The Voicing of and the Voices in Psalm 82, the *Song of Songs*, and *Qohelet*," *Bar-Ilan University Bible Department Annual Conference, 7–8 June 2023*
21. "Song 1:5–6," *European Association for Biblical Studies, Siracusa, Italy, 10–13 June, 2023*

PUBLIC

- The Bible Sleuth: Ancient Hebrew Poetry One Poem at a Time* (<https://voices.uchicago.edu/sbchavel/>)
- "Interview," *Circa* (Fall 2010)
- "Jews and Judaism, Religion and Identity," *Sightings* (19 Dec, 2019)
- "Psalms Online," *Criterion* (Spring 2020)
- "What are we talking about when we talk about religion?" *Criterion* (Spring 2022)

PROJECTS & SERVICE

- Advisor, CEDAR (Critical Editions for Digital Analysis and Research), an ancient texts and digital humanities project at the University of Chicago (<https://divinity.uchicago.edu/cedar> and <https://voices.uchicago.edu/cedar/>)
- Editor, HBCE (Hebrew Bible Critical Edition), an eclectic edition of the Hebrew Bible published by the Society of Biblical Literature: *The Five Scrolls* (https://www.sbl-site.org/HBCE/HBCE_About.html)
- Editor, *Maarav—A Journal for the Study of Northwest Semitic Languages and Literatures* (<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/journals/mar/about>)
- Chair, *Religions of Israel in Their West Asian Environment*, Society of Biblical Literature

SERVICE (at University of Chicago)

- Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies
 Institute on the Formation of Knowledge

ASSOCIATIONS

American Society for Overseas Research

European Association of Biblical Studies

Society of Biblical Literature

World Union of Jewish Studies