

## **Mahri S. Leonard-Fleckman**

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### **1. ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

- 2018–present. College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA.  
Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies, 2023–present.  
Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, 2018–2023.
- 2016–2018. Providence College, Providence, RI.  
Assistant Professor, Department of Theology.
- 2015–2016. University of Scranton, Scranton, PA.  
Assistant Professor, Department of Theology and Religious Studies,  
Associate Faculty in Women’s Studies.

### **2. EDUCATION**

2014. Ph.D. New York University, New York, NY.  
Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East.
2012. M.Phil. New York University, New York, NY.  
Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East.
2008. M.Div. Union Theological Seminary in New York, New York, NY.  
Foci: Hebrew Bible; Education and Religion.
- 2002–2004. Peace Corps Dominican Republic, Province of Puerto Plata, DR.  
Health and Community Development Consultant.
2002. B.A. Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO.  
Double Major in Spanish; English Literature, *magna cum laude*.  
Academic Year Abroad, Universidad Carlos III; Madrid, Spain (2001–2002).

### **3. PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Single-Authored Books**

- In press. *Scribal Representations and Social Landscapes of the Iron Age Shephelah*. Oxford University Press.
2016. *The House of David: Between Political Formation and Literary Revision*. Fortress Press.  
Reviews: *BBR* 27/3 (2017): 394–95; *JSTOT* 42/5 (2018): 148; *CBQ* 82 (2020): 121–123; *RBL* 01/2020: [https://www.sblcentral.org/API/Reviews/12931\\_14420.pdf](https://www.sblcentral.org/API/Reviews/12931_14420.pdf).

#### **Book Collaborations**

2017. *The Book of Ruth*. With Alice Laffey. Wisdom Commentary Series. Liturgical Press, 2017.  
Review: *RBL* 20 (2018): 203–206.

#### **Edited Volumes**

2022. With Peter Dubovský and Shuichi Hasegawa, editors. Invited volume on “Israel and Phoenicia.” *Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel*, Volume 11/2. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck.

2022. With Lauren A. S. Monroe, Michael J. Stahl, and Dylan R. Johnson, editors. “A Community of Peoples”: *Studies on Society and Politics in the Bible and Ancient Near East in Honor of Daniel E. Fleming*. Harvard Semitic Studies. Brill.

### Articles and Chapters in Peer-Reviewed Publications

2023. “Irresolution as Historical Practice and the Case of the Unnamed Woman in Timnah.” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 142/3: 409–429.
2023. “1–2 Samuel.” Pages 415–500 in Steven L. McKenzie, et al., eds. Introduction and annotation revisions to *The SBL Study Bible*, Updated Edition. New York: HarperCollins.
2023. “Betwixt and Between: The Elusiveness of Israel’s Iron Age Timnah.” Pages 65–81 in Sara Mohr and Shane Thompson, eds. *Power and Identity at the Margins of the Ancient Near East*. Denver: University Press of Colorado.
2022. “Lamenting Tyre (Ezekiel 27): A Unique Perspective on Judah’s Proximate Other.” *Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel* 11/2: 134–151.
2022. “Editorial Introduction: Israel and Phoenicia.” With Peter Dubovský and Shuichi Hasegawa. *Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel* 11/2: 79–81.
2022. “Tamar, Delilah, and a Nameless Timnite: Women as (De)constructions of Social Landscape.” Pages 60–76 in Barbara Reid, ed. *Forget Not God’s Benefits (Ps 103:2): Festschrift in Honor of Leslie J. Hoppe, OFM*. CBQI 3. Catholic Biblical Association.
2022. “Judges.” Pages 402–21 in John J. Collins, et al., eds. *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*. London: Bloomsbury T & T Clark. (Online version published in 2020.)
2022. With Lauren A. S. Monroe and Michael J. Stahl. “Introduction: ‘A Community of Peoples.’” Pages 1–5 in “A Community of Peoples.” *Studies on Society and Politics in the Bible and Ancient Near East in Honor of Daniel E. Fleming*. Harvard Semitic Studies. Brill.
2021. “Binding Samson to Yhwh: from Disorder to Order in the Samson Cycle.” Pages 49–68 in Corrine Carvalho and John L. McLaughlin, eds. *God and Gods in the Deuteronomistic History*. CBQI 2. Baltimore: Catholic Biblical Association.
2021. “Ally or Enemy? Political Identity and Ambiguity in the Tales of David and Gath.” Pages 211–224 in Sara Kipfer and Jeremy M. Hutton, eds. *The Book of Samuel and Its Response to Monarchy*. BWANT 228. Stuttgart: Kohlhammer.
2021. “‘All the *gēbûl* of Israel’ (1 Sam 27:1): Israel’s ‘Territory’ in David’s Wanderings.” Pages 103–126 in Hannes Bezzel and Reinhard G. Kratz, eds. *David in the Desert. Tradition and Redaction in the “History of David’s Rise.”* BZAW 514. Berlin: de Gruyter.
2019. “Scribal Innovation, Education, and the Female Body in Ezekiel and Proverbs.” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 35/1: 35–50.
2018. “The House of X Formula in Assyrian Documentation and Aramaean Social Structure.” *Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel* 7/2: 140–171.
2018. “Utterance of David, the Anointed of the God of Jacob (2 Sam 23:1-7).” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 137/3: 667–683.
2017. “Stones from Heaven and Celestial Tricks: The Battle at Gibeon in Joshua 10.” *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 79/3: 385–401.
2017. “Samson and Our Reactions to the Strong Man.” *Word & World*, 37/3: 217–225.
2015. “Judah Bookends: The Priority of Israel and Literary Revision in the David Narrative.” *Vetus Testamentum* 65/3: 401–413.

## Articles and Chapters in Process

- Accepted. “1–2 Kings.” In Michael D. Coogan, et al., eds. Introduction and annotations to *The New Oxford Annotated Bible*, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. (Submitted Nov 2023.)
- Accepted. “From a Samson–Saul Complex to the Creation of Judahite History.” In *Between Fiction and Fact: Historicity and Religiosity in the Books of Samuel*. In Johannes Klein and David Shepherd, eds. BWANT. Kolhammer. (Submitted Dec 2022.)
- Accepted. “An Unknowable Woman: Ambiguity in the Samson Cycle.” In Elizabeth Knott and Lauren K. McCormick, eds. *Ambiguity in the Ancient Near East*. Borders, Boundaries, Landscapes. Brepols. (Submitted Dec 2021.)
- Accepted. “Deep Reading: The Role of the Hebrew Bible in Religious Formation.” In Jon Levisohn, ed. *Conceptualizing Outcomes of Religious Education*. (Submitted June 2020.)

## Reference Materials

- In press. “Philistia/Philistines.” In the *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception (EBR)*. In Steven L. McKenzie, ed. Berlin: De Gruyter.
2021. “Moriah.” *EBR*. In Steven L. McKenzie, ed. Berlin: De Gruyter.
2021. “Mourning.” *EBR*. In Steven L. McKenzie, ed. Berlin: De Gruyter.
2020. “Mercy Seat.” *EBR*. In Steven L. McKenzie, ed. Berlin: De Gruyter.
2020. “Messiah.” *EBR*. In Steven L. McKenzie, ed. Berlin: De Gruyter.

## Book Reviews

- In press. Review of Sonja Ammann, Katharina Pyschny, and Julia Rhyder, eds., *Authorship and the Hebrew Bible*. FAT 158. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2022. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 86/2.
2023. Review of Rachelle Gilmour, *Divine Violence in the Book of Samuel*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 85/4: 706–708.
2023. Review of Jeremy Schipper, *Denmark Vesey’s Bible*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2022. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 85/1: 146–148.
2019. Review of Daniel Pioske, *Memory in a Time of Prose: Studies in Epistemology, Hebrew Scribalism, and the Biblical Past*. Oxford, 2018. *CBQ* 81: 530–531.
2018. Review of Stephen C. Russell, *The King and the Land: A Geography of Royal Power in the Biblical World*. Oxford, 2016. *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 77/2: 322–325.
2018. Review of David Wolpe, *David: The Divided Heart (Jewish Lives)*. Yale: Yale University Press, 2014. *Reading Religion*: <http://readingreligion.org/books/david>.
2017. Review of Stephen B. Chapman, *1 Samuel as Christian Scripture: A Theological Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016. *CBQ* 79/3: 498–500.

## Public Scholarship: Single Authored Books

2022. *Ponder: Contemplative Bible Study, Year A*. Liturgical Press.  
Honorable Mention, Catholic Media Association Book Awards, 2023.
2021. *Ponder: Contemplative Bible Study, Year C*. Liturgical Press.  
First Place, Catholic Media Association Book Awards, 2022.
2020. *Ponder: Contemplative Bible Study, Year B*. Liturgical Press.  
Third Place, Excellence in Publishing Award, Association of Catholic Publishers, 2021.  
Honorable Mention, Catholic Media Association Book Awards, 2021.

## Public Scholarship: Articles

2022. “Moses and the Prophetic Personality in the Old Testament.” Special volume on “Prophecy.” *The Bible Today*. November/December: 325–331.
2021. “Iconoclasm 2.0.” Review of Aaron Tugendhaft, *The Idols of ISIS: From Assyria to the Internet*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020. *Commonweal*, July 11. <https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/iconoclasm-20>
2020. “Song of Plagues: How Psalm 91 Helps Us Pray during Pandemic.” *Commonweal*. April 18. <https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/song-plagues>
2020. “A Prophet Unarmed: A Woman Called Moses.” Review of Jean-Christophe Attias, *A Woman Called Moses: A Prophet for our Times*. Verso, 2020. *Commonweal*, Sept. 29, 2020. <https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/prophet-unarmed>
2020. “Judah Meets Tamar ‘On the Road to Timnah.’” TheTorah.com. Parashat Vayeshev. <https://www.thetorah.com/article/judah-meets-tamar-on-the-road-to-timnah>
2020. “Julian of Norwich believed ‘All will be well.’ Would she say so today?” *America Magazine*. June 24. (<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/06/24/julian-norwich-believed-all-will-be-well-would-she-say-so-today>)
2019. “Life in the Ruins. Reading the Hebrew Bible in a Time of Crisis.” *Commonweal*. May 4. <https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/life-ruins>
2019. “Blurred Lines: The Enigma of Iron Age Timnah.” *Biblical Archaeology Review*. July-Oct: 79-83. <https://www.baslibrary.org/biblical-archaeology-review/45/4/14>
2019. “Ask the Dust: Masada.” Review of Jodi Magness, *Masada: From Jewish Revolt to Modern Myth*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2019. *Commonweal*, Nov. 11. <https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/ask-dust>
2016. “King David and the Illusory Judah.” *The Bible and Interpretation*. May. <http://www.bibleinterp.com/articles/2016/05/leo408018.shtml>

## 4. AWARDS AND HONORS

2022. Batchelor Ford Foundation Grant (Summer Faculty Fellowship), College of the Holy Cross.
2021. Publication Grant, College of the Holy Cross.
- 2021–2022. Biblical Scholarship Promotion Grant, Catholic Biblical Association.
- 2018–2019. Biblical Scholarship Promotion Grant, Catholic Biblical Association.
- 2013–2014. Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship in the Humanities, New York University.
- 2008–2013. Henry M. MacCracken Fellowship, New York University.
2011. Dean’s Student Travel Grant, New York University.
2008. Traveling Fellowship, Highest Award of Academic Excellence, Union Theological Seminary.
- 2007–2008. Bishop Murphy Scholarship, Women’s Ordination Conference.
- 2006–2008. Academic Scholarship, Union Theological Seminary in New York.
2002. Sherman Eoff Prize for Excellence, Spanish Department, Washington University in St. Louis.

## 5. PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIP

### Editorial and Advisory Boards

- 2023–present. Series Editor, with Christopher B. Hays and Brent A. Strawn, *The Ancient Near Eastern World and the Bible (ANEWB)*, Cambridge Elements series, Cambridge University Press.
- 2022–present. Book Review Editor, Old Testament and Qumran, *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*.

- 2020–present. Associate Editor, *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*.
- 2020–present. Advisory Board, *The Journal of Hebrew Scriptures*.
- 2020–present. International Advisory Board, *Revista Biblica*.
- 2021–2023. Associate Editor, *The Bible Today*.

## **Committees**

- 2022–present. Professional Conduct Committee, The Catholic Biblical Association.
- 2022–present. Nominating Committee, Society of Biblical Literature [SBL] Annual Meeting.
- 2019–present. Honors and Awards Committee, American Society of Overseas Research.
- 2017–present. Divinity in Ancient Israel Continuing Seminar Co-Chair, The Catholic Biblical Association.
- 2017–present. Historiography and the Hebrew Bible Unit Steering Committee (Co-Chair, 2018–2024), SBL Annual Meeting.
- 2018–2023. President, Executive Committee, Colloquium for Biblical and Near Eastern Studies.
- 2015–2023. Deuteronomistic History Unit Steering Committee (Co-Chair, 2017–2023), SBL Annual Meeting.
- 2018–2021. Executive Committee, New England/East Canada Regional SBL.
- 2017–2019. Committee on Program for the Annual General Meeting, The Catholic Biblical Association.
- 2017–2019. Chair, Ad-Hoc Committee on Membership, The Catholic Biblical Association.
- 2016–2018. Consultor, Executive Board, The Catholic Biblical Association.
- 2015–2016. Committee on Technology and Outreach, The Catholic Biblical Association.

## **Memberships**

American Society of Overseas Research; Association for Jewish Studies; Catholic Biblical Association of America; Colloquium for Biblical and Near Eastern Studies; European Association of Biblical Studies; International Kings Seminar; Old Testament Colloquium, Society of Biblical Literature.

## **6. PROFESSIONAL TALKS**

### **Invited Lectures, Keynotes, and Conference Papers**

- 2024. “Manifestations of Israel in the Book of Kings.” Invited Session, *The Two Houses of Israel: State Formation in Israel and Judah and the Origins of Pan-Israelite Identity*. SBL Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, 2023. (Postponed from 2023.)
- 2023. “Samson and the Aesthetics of Biblical Biography.” Conference: “Biography in Jewish Studies.” Cornell University, Jewish Studies program.
- 2023. “When Did Israel’s Literature Enter Judah? A Case Study in Biblical Historiography.” Tel Aviv University, Department of Biblical Studies, Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures.
- 2023. “State of the Field: Hebrew Bible Studies.” Invited Panelist, SBL Global Virtual Meeting.
- 2023. “Mark of Contradictions: The Creation of Judahite History and the Case of Samson.” Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies, University of California Los Angeles.
- 2022. “History and Historiography.” Invited Session: Panel Discussion on Israel Finkelstein’s *Essays on Biblical Historiography*. SBL Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- 2022. “When Did Israel’s Literature Enter Judah? A Case Study in Biblical Historiography.” Invited Session: “Stones, Tablets and Scrolls.” SBL Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.

2022. “Before Divisions: From a Samson–Saul Complex to the Creation of Judahite History.”  
Invited Seminar: “Between Fiction and Facts: Historicity and Religiosity in 1–2 Samuel.”  
International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament, Zürich.
2021. “Identity Shaping and Entanglement in Iron Age Gath (Tell eṣ-Şāfi).”  
University of California Berkeley, Department of Near Eastern Studies (Zoom).
2020. “Reworking Tyre: From Lament to Judgment in Ezekiel 27.”  
Harvard University, Hebrew Bible Workshop.
2020. “Landscaping Language: Border and Identity Construction in the Iron Age Shephelah.”  
Brandeis University, Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies.
2020. “Landscaping Language: Border and Identity Construction in the Iron Age Shephelah.”  
Harvard University, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.
2019. “Tamar, Delilah, and a Nameless Timnite: Women as (De)constructions of Landscape.”  
Invited Session: “History and Gender.” SBL Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
2019. “Who’s Who in the Iron II Levant? Ancient Perspectives on Borders and Identities.”  
Bible & Archaeology Fest, San Diego, CA.
2019. “Wrestling with the Word: Moral Ambiguity in the Hebrew Bible.” With Andrew Davis.  
McFarland Center, Hebrew Bible Lecture Series, College of the Holy Cross.
2019. “‘Languaging’ Landscape in the Iron Age Shephelah: The Case of Timnah.”  
Conference: “At the Margins: Interconnections of Power & Identity in the Ancient Near East.”  
Brown University, Depts. of Egyptology, Assyriology and Religious Studies.
2019. “The Malleability of ‘Knowledge’ of the Southern Levant and the Case of Timnah.”  
Conference: “The Spirit of Scholarship: Biblical and Mesopotamian Studies in the Roman  
Catholic Academy.” Boston College, Theology and School of Theology and Ministry.
2019. “Ally or Enemy? Political Identity and Ambiguity in the Tales of David and Gath.”  
Invited Seminar: “The Book of Samuel and Its Response to Monarchy.”  
International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament, Aberdeen UK.
2019. “Pursuing the ‘Sea Peoples.’” Invited Session: “Israel and Phoenicia.”  
International SBL Meeting, Rome, Italy.
2019. “What’s Historical About Ancient Text? Constructions of Shephelah Landscape.”  
Cornell University, Near Eastern Studies Colloquium.
2019. “Constructions of the Shephelah Landscape in Biblical and Neo-Assyrian Texts.”  
Yale Divinity School and Judaic Studies Program, Hebrew Bible Series.
2018. “Build the Wall! Identity, Ambiguity and Border Construction in the Shephelah Tales.”  
Major Paper, Catholic Biblical Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
2018. Keynote. “Does Literature Construct Society? Ancient Identity and the Bible’s Lowland Tales.”  
Conference: “Borders and Boundaries in Ancient Israel,” University of Nottingham.
2018. “Who’s Who in the Iron II? An Assyrian Spotlight on Shephelah Borders and Identities.”  
Brown University, Department of Egyptology and Assyriology.
2016. “What’s in a Name? The God of Jacob in the Jerusalem Temple.”  
Invited Session: “History and Memory.” SBL Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX.
2016. “Judges and the New Jerome Biblical Commentary.” Invited Session: “Judges.”  
SBL Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX.
2015. “Dei Verbum: Fifty Years Later.” Conference: “World, Church, World: Vatican II Fifty  
Years On.” University of Scranton.

2013. “The Question of Aramaean Identity in the Assyrian Royal Annals.”  
The Yale University Assyriological Seminar.

**Other Professional Conference and Colloquium Papers (Select, Since 2011)**

2023. “David, Gath, and the Politics of Identity.” Old Testament Colloquium, Colledgeville, MN.
2022. “Dividing Samson and Saul, Writing Judahite History.”  
Catholic Biblical Association of America Annual Meeting, Santa Clara.
2022. “History as Irresolution and the Case of Iron Age Identity.”  
International SBL Meeting, Salzburg, Austria.
2021. “Who’s Really Real? Spatial Interplay in the Iron Age Shephelah: A Response to Maia Kotrosits.” SBL Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX.
2020. “Is the Other so Other? Lamenting Tyre in Ezekiel 27.”  
Old Testament Colloquium, Colledgeville, MN.
2019. “What’s Historical About the Bible?” Early Work Seminar, College of the Holy Cross.
2019. Respondent to Everett Fox, “Bible Translation and Biblical Meaning.” Conference: “Reading from the Roots: Biblical Translation and Impact.” College of the Holy Cross.
2018. “Boundary Crossing and Boundary Blurring in the Bible’s Tales of David and Gath.”  
SBL Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
2018. “A Fresh Lens on the Shephelah: Social Ambiguity and Order in Judges – Samuel.”  
American Society of Overseas Research Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
2017. “Claiming Samson for Israel: Liminality and Border Shaping at the End of Judges.”  
SBL Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.
2017. “Yhwh’s Samson, Israel’s Samson: Binding Samson to the Book of Judges.”  
Catholic Biblical Association of America Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
2017. “David, the Anointed of the God of Jacob (2 Sam 23:1-7).”  
Old Testament Colloquium, Colledgeville, MN.
2016. “What’s History Got to Do with It? Judah and the God of Jacob.”  
Colloquium for Biblical and Near Eastern Studies, San Antonio, TX.
2016. “Scribal Imagination and the Adulterous Wife.”  
The Catholic Biblical Association of America Annual Meeting, Santa Clara, CA.
2015. “Proverbs or Prophets? A Scribal Light on the Dangerous Woman in Prophet Writing.”  
SBL Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
2015. “Stones from Heaven and Celestial Tricks: Yahweh the Warrior in Josh 10:10-14.”  
The Catholic Biblical Association of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
2014. “Judah Bookends: The Priority of Israel and Literary Revision in the David Narrative.”  
SBL Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
2013. “Echoes of a Tenth Century Kingdom in Sheshonk I’s Invasion of Israel.”  
SBL Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD.
2013. “Aramaean Politics in First-Millennium Syria and the ‘House of X’ Pattern.”  
The American Oriental Society Annual Meeting, Portland, OR.
2012. “The House of David in the Fabric of Ancient Near Eastern Society.”  
SBL Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
2011. “The Centrality of Israel in the David Story.” SBL Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.