

Mahri S. Leonard-Fleckman

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2018– **College of the Holy Cross**; Worcester, MA
Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies
- 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

EDUCATION

- 2014 **Ph.D., New York University**; New York, NY
Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East, Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies
Dissertation: *The House of David: Between Political Formation and Literary Revision*
Committee: Daniel E. Fleming, Mark S. Smith, Lorenzo d'Alfonso
Outside readers: David M. Carr, Jeremy M. Hutton
- 2012 **M.Phil., New York University**; New York, NY
Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East, Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies
- 2008 **M.Div., Union Theological Seminary in New York**; New York, NY
Dual Focus: Hebrew Bible & Education and Religion
- 2002–2004 **Peace Corps, Dominican Republic**; Province of Puerto Plata, DR
Health and Community Development Consultant
- 2002 **B.A., magna cum laude, Washington University in St. Louis**; St. Louis, MO
Double Major in Spanish and English Literature; Departmental Honors Spanish
Academic Year Abroad, Universidad Carlos III; Madrid, Spain (2001–2002)

PUBLICATIONS

Books

1. *Scribal Representations and Social Landscapes of the Iron Age Shephelah*.
Writing in progress; under contract with Oxford University Press (due Fall 2023).
2. *The Book of Ruth*. With Alice Laffey. Wisdom Commentary Series. Liturgical Press, 2017.
Review: *RBL* 20 (2018): 203–206.
3. *The House of David: Between Political Formation and Literary Revision*. Fortress Press, 2016.
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.

Edited Volumes

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

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

1. “Lamenting Tyre (Ezekiel 27): A Unique Perspective on Judah’s Proximate Other.” *Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel* 11/2 (2022): 134–151.
2. “Editorial Introduction: Israel and Phoenicia.” With Peter Dubovský and Shuichi Hasegawa. *Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel* 11/2 (2022): 79–81.
3. “Scribal Innovation, Education, and the Female Body in Ezekiel and Proverbs.” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 35/1 (2019): 35–50.
4. “The House of X Formula in Assyrian Documentation and Aramaean Social Structure.” *Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel* 7/2 (2018): 140–171.
5. “Utterance of David, the Anointed of the God of Jacob (2 Sam 23:1-7).” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 137/3 (2018): 667–683.
6. “Stones from Heaven and Celestial Tricks: The Battle at Gibeon in Joshua 10.” *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 79/3 (2017): 385–401.
7. “Judah Bookends: The Priority of Israel and Literary Revision in the David Narrative.” *Vetus Testamentum* 65/3 (2015): 401–413.

Articles in Edited Volumes

1. “Before Divisions: From a Samson–Saul Complex to the Creation of Judahite History.” In *Between Fiction and Fact: Historicity and Religiosity in 1-2 Samuel*. Conference Volume, International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament, Zürich, 2022 (in process).
2. “Unnaming the Unnamed Woman: Irresolution as Ethical and Historical Practice in Judges 14–15.” In Elizabeth Knott and Lauren K. McCormick, eds. *Ambiguity in the Ancient Near East*. Brepols (submitted).
3. “Deep Reading: The Role of the Hebrew Bible in Religious Formation.” In Jon Levisohn, ed. *Conceptualizing Outcomes of Religious Education* (submitted).
4. “Betwixt and Between: The Elusiveness of Israel’s Iron Age Timnah.” In Sara Mohr and Shane Thompson, eds. *Power and Identity at the Margins of the Ancient Near East*. University of Colorado Press (in press; expected publication 2023).
5. “1 Samuel.” In Steven L. McKenzie, et al., eds. Introduction to *HarperCollins Study Bible*, 3rd Edition (in press; expected publication 2022).
6. “2 Samuel.” In Steven L. McKenzie, et al., eds. Introduction to *HarperCollins Study Bible*, 3rd Edition (in press; expected publication 2022).
7. “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.
8. “Judges.” Pages 402–21 in John J. Collins, et al., eds. *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*. London: Bloomsbury T & T Clark, 2022. (Online version published in 2020.)

9. 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, 2022.
10. "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.
11. "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.
12. "'All the *gēbūl* 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, 2021.
13. "Samson and Our Reactions to the Strong Man." *Word & World*, 37/3 (2017): 217–225.

Book Reviews

1. Review of Jeremy Schipper, *Denmark Vesey's Bible*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2022. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 85/1 (2023) (in press).
2. Review of Daniel Pioske, *Memory in a Time of Prose: Studies in Epistemology, Hebrew Scribalism, and the Biblical Past*. Oxford, 2018. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 81 (2019): 530–531.
3. 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 (2018): 322–325.
4. Review of David Wolpe, *David: The Divided Heart (Jewish Lives)*. Yale: Yale University Press, 2014. *Reading Religion*, 2018 (<http://readingreligion.org/books/david>).
5. Review of Stephen B. Chapman, *1 Samuel as Christian Scripture: A Theological Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 79/3 (2017): 498–500.

Reference Materials

1. "Philistia/Philistines." In Steven L. McKenzie, et al. *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*. Berlin: De Gruyter (in press, expected publication 2022).
- 2–3. Separate entries: "Mourning." "Moriah." In Steven L. McKenzie, et al. *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2021.
- 4–5. Separate entries: "Messiah." "Mercy Seat." In Steven L. McKenzie, et al. *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2020.

Public Scholarship: Books

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

Public Scholarship: Articles

1. "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, 2021.
(<https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/iconoclasm-20>)

2. “Song of Plagues: How Psalm 91 Helps Us Pray during Pandemic.” *Commonweal*. April 18, 2020. (<https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/song-plagues>)
3. “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>)
4. “Judah Meets Tamar ‘On the Road to Timnah.’” TheTorah.com. Parashat Vayeshev, 2020. (<https://www.thetorah.com/article/judah-meets-tamar-on-the-road-to-timnah>)
5. “Julian of Norwich believed ‘All will be well.’ Would she say so today?” *America Magazine*. June 24, 2020. (<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/06/24/julian-norwich-believed-all-will-be-well-would-she-say-so-today>)
6. “Life in the Ruins. Reading the Hebrew Bible in a Time of Crisis.” *Commonweal*. May 4, 2019. (<https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/life-ruins>)
7. “Blurred Lines: The Enigma of Iron Age Timnah.” *Biblical Archaeology Review*. July-Oct (2019): 79-83. (<https://www.baslibrary.org/biblical-archaeology-review/45/4/14>)
8. “Ask the Dust: Masada.” Review of Jodi Magness, *Masada: From Jewish Revolt to Modern Myth*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2019. *Commonweal*, Nov. 11, 2019. (<https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/ask-dust>)
9. “King David and the Illusory Judah.” *The Bible and Interpretation*. May, 2016. (<http://www.bibleinterp.com/articles/2016/05/leo408018.shtml>)
10. Short Essays in *Give Us This Day: Daily Prayer for Today’s Catholic*. Lit Press (35 total; 2013–present).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editorial and Advisory Boards

- 2022– *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* Book Review Editor, Old Testament and Qumran
- 2022– Associate Editor, *The Bible Today*
- 2020– Associate Editor, *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*
- 2020– Advisory Board, *The Journal of Hebrew Scriptures*
- 2020– International Advisory Board, *Revista Bíblica*

Committees

- 2022– Nominating Committee, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting
- 2019– Honors and Awards Committee, American Schools of Oriental Research
- 2018– President, Executive Committee, Colloquium for Biblical and Near Eastern Studies
- 2017– Divinity in Ancient Israel Continuing Seminar Co-Chair, The Catholic Biblical Association
- 2017– Historiography and the Hebrew Bible Unit Steering Committee (Co-Chair, 2018–), Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting
- 2015– Deuteronomistic History Unit Steering Committee (Co-Chair, 2017–), Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting
- 2018–2021 Executive Committee, New England/East Canada Regional Society of Biblical Literature
- 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

Guest Peer Reviewing (Invited Reviews of Book Manuscripts, Grants and Articles)

- 2022 Israel Science Foundation (One Grant)
- 2022 *Journal of Biblical Literature* (One Article)

2020, 2022	<i>Review of Rabbinic Judaism</i> (Two Articles)
2021	W. W. Norton (One Book Manuscript)
2021	<i>Open Theology</i> (One Article)
2019, 2020	Cambridge University Press (Two Book Manuscripts)
2018–2020	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i> (Four Articles)
2019	<i>Biblical Interpretation</i> (One Article)
2018	Oxford University Press (One Book Manuscript)

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Schools of Oriental Research; Catholic Biblical Association of America; Colloquium for Biblical and Near Eastern Studies; International Kings Seminar; Old Testament Colloquium, Society of Biblical Literature

LANGUAGES

Ancient:	Primary: Akkadian, Aramaic, Hebrew; Secondary: Koine Greek, Sumerian; Ugaritic
Modern:	Speak: fluent Spanish; Read: French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Spanish

PROFESSIONAL TALKS

Invited Lectures, Keynotes, and Conference Papers

1. “Mark of Contradictions: The Creation of Judahite History and the Case of Samson.”
Invited Lecture, Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies, UCLA (upcoming, March 2023).
2. “History and Historiography.”
Invited Session: Panel Discussion on Israel Finkelstein’s *Essays on Biblical Historiography*.
Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, 2022 (upcoming, Nov. 2022).
3. “Assyrian Political Maps and Literary Inversions in Judahite Historiography.”
Invited Session: “Stones, Tablets and Scrolls.”
Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, 2022 (upcoming, Nov. 2022).
4. “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, 2022.
5. “Identity Shaping and Entanglement in Iron Age Gath (Tell eš-Şâfi).”
University of California Berkeley, Department of Near Eastern Studies, 2021 (Zoom).
6. “Reworking Tyre: From Lament to Judgment in Ezekiel 27.”
Harvard University, Hebrew Bible Workshop, 2020.

7. "Landscaping Language: Border and Identity Construction in the Iron Age Shephelah."
Brandeis University, Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, 2020.
8. "Landscaping Language: Border and Identity Construction in the Iron Age Shephelah."
Harvard University, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, 2020.
9. "Tamar, Delilah, and a Nameless Timnite: Women as (De)constructions of Landscape."
Invited Session: "History and Gender." Society of Biblical Literature, San Diego, CA, 2019.
10. "Who's Who in the Iron II Levant? Ancient Perspectives on Borders and Identities."
Bible & Archaeology Fest, San Diego, CA, 2019.
11. "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.
12. "'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.
13. "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.
14. "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.
15. "Pursuing the 'Sea Peoples.'" Invited Session: "Israel and Phoenicia."
International Society of Biblical Literature Meeting, Rome, Italy, 2019.
16. "What's Historical About Ancient Text? Constructions of Shephelah Landscape."
Cornell University, Near Eastern Studies Colloquium, 2019.
17. "Constructions of the Shephelah Landscape in Biblical and Neo-Assyrian Texts."
Yale Divinity School and Judaic Studies Program, Hebrew Bible Series, 2019.
18. "Build the Wall! Identity, Ambiguity and Border Construction in the Shephelah Tales."
Major Paper, Catholic Biblical Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, 2018.
19. Keynote. "Does Literature Construct Society? Ancient Identity and the Bible's Lowland Tales."
Conference: "Borders and Boundaries in Ancient Israel," University of Nottingham, 2018.
20. "Who's Who in the Iron II? An Assyrian Spotlight on Shephelah Borders and Identities."
Brown University, Department of Egyptology and Assyriology, 2018.
21. "What's in a Name? The God of Jacob in the Jerusalem Temple." Invited Session: "History and Memory."
Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, 2016.
22. "Judges and the New Jerome Biblical Commentary." Invited Session: "Judges."
Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, 2016.
23. "Dei Verbum: Fifty Years Later." Conference: "World, Church, World: Vatican II Fifty Years On."
University of Scranton, 2015.
24. "The Question of Aramaean Identity in the Assyrian Royal Annals."
The Yale University Assyriological Seminar, 2013.

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

1. "Entangled Landscapes."
Old Testament Colloquium, Colledgeville, MN, 2023 (upcoming, Feb. 2023).
2. "Dividing Samson and Saul, Writing Judahite History."
Catholic Biblical Association of America Annual Meeting, Santa Clara, 2022.
3. "History as Irresolution and the Case of Iron Age Identity."
International Society of Biblical Literature Meeting, Salzburg, Austria, 2022.

4. "Who's Really Real? Spatial Interplay in the Iron Age Shephelah: A Response to Maia Kotrosits." Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, 2021.
5. "Is the Other so Other? Lamenting Tyre in Ezekiel 27." Old Testament Colloquium, Collegeville, MN, 2020.
6. "What's Historical About the Bible?" Early Work Seminar, College of the Holy Cross, 2019.
7. Respondent to Everett Fox, "Bible Translation and Biblical Meaning." Conference: "Reading from the Roots: Biblical Translation and Impact." College of the Holy Cross, 2019.
8. "Boundary Crossing and Boundary Blurring in the Bible's Tales of David and Gath." Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, 2018.
9. "A Fresh Lens on the Shephelah: Social Ambiguity and Order in Judges – Samuel." American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, 2018.
10. "Claiming Samson for Israel: Liminality and Border Shaping at the End of Judges." Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, 2017.
11. "Yhwh's Samson, Israel's Samson: Binding Samson to the Book of Judges." Catholic Biblical Association of America Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., 2017.
12. "David, the Anointed of the God of Jacob (2 Sam 23:1-7)." Old Testament Colloquium, Collegeville, MN, 2017.
13. "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.
14. "Scribal Imagination and the Adulterous Wife." The Catholic Biblical Association of America Annual Meeting, Santa Clara, CA, 2016.
15. "Proverbs or Prophets? A Scribal Light on the Dangerous Woman in Prophet Writing." Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, 2015.
16. "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, 2015.
17. "Judah Bookends: The Priority of Israel and Literary Revision in the David Narrative." Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, 2014.
18. "Echoes of a Tenth-Century Kingdom in Sheshonk I's Invasion of Israel." Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, 2013.
19. "Aramaean Polities in First-Millennium Syria and the 'House of X' Pattern." The American Oriental Society Annual Meeting, Portland, OR, 2013.
20. "The House of David in the Fabric of Ancient Near Eastern Society." Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, 2012.
21. "The Centrality of Israel in the David Story." Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, 2011.