

JOSEPH JOHN CROSS

Seminar für Altes Testament, Geschichte Israels in der altorientalischen Welt
Theologische Fakultät
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, 2022
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago
Advisors: Robert Ritner, Dennis Pardee
Dissertation: “The Poetics of Plot in the Egyptian and Judean Novella”
Dissertation committee: Brian Muhs, Jacqueline Jay, Simeon Chavel, Dennis Pardee

M.A., Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, 2014
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago

M.A., Theology, 2011
University of Dallas

B.A., Classics, 2006
University of Texas at Austin

POSITIONS

Postdoctoral researcher, ERC Advanced Grant project “From Texts to Literature: Demotic Egyptian Papyri and the Formation of the Hebrew Bible” (DEMBIB), 2022-present
Theologische Fakultät, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

TEACHING

University of North Carolina Asheville
The Ancient World (Fall 2018, 2020, Spring 2019-2020, Maymester 2019) – primary source-based survey on religion, literature, and culture of ancient societies across the world that is thematically oriented (e.g. creation stories, gender and sexuality, happiness and society)
Latin I-II (Fall 2018-Spring 2019)
Ancient Egyptian Magic and Medicine (Fall 2018)

University of Chicago
Middle Egyptian Texts II (masters and doctoral), Fall 2015
Teaching assistantships:
Ancient Empires: Egypt (undergraduate), Spring 2016 – history of New Kingdom Egypt with emphasis on cultural history and primary sources

Intro to the Hebrew Bible (masters), Fall 2014
 Intermediate Hebrew I (masters and doctoral), Fall 2014
 Intro to Middle Egyptian I-II (undergraduate, doctoral), Fall 2013-Winter 2014
 The Bible and Western Culture (undergraduate), Fall 2013

Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, University of Chicago

Adult education courses:

Jewish Scripts Through History, online, August 2020

History through OI Objects: The Megiddo Gallery, online, May 2020

The World of the Hebrew Bible, hybrid and online, 2015-2018

Writing Program, University of Chicago

Undergraduate Writing Intern, 2016-2018

Undergraduate Writing Tutor, 2016-2017

Pedagogies of Writing Seminar Leader, Summer 2017

EDITED BOOKS

The Routledge Handbook of Ancient Egypt and the Bible, with Bernd U. Schipper and Robert Kade (under contract), in preparation for submission in mid-2024

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

“*Mouvance* and the Art of Fiction in Performance in Manuscripts of a Demotic Novella,” *Manuscripts and Text Cultures*, in press, expected early 2024

“Appearance and Reality in Setna’s Dialogue with ‘Pharaoh’ in First Setna 5.31-35,” in Aurore Motte and Victoria Almansa-Villatoro, eds., *(Im-)Politeness in Ancient Egyptian Texts* (Brill, Studies in Pragmatics), revised and resubmitted, expected 2024

“The Corpus of Northwest Semitic Texts in Egyptian Script,” in Susan Hollis, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Ancient Egypt and the Hebrew Bible*, revised and resubmitted, expected late 2024-early 2025

ARTICLES IN PREPARATION

“Finding God at Nineveh: A Case Study in Egyptian and Judean Literary Imagination,” in *Hebrew Bible Ancient Israel*, agreed on contribution to thematic issue, expected mid-to-late 2024

“The Book of Esther as Novella,” in Helge Bezold and Kristin Joachimsen, eds., *Esther: Themes and Issues* (Equinox Themes and Issues in Biblical Studies), under contract for submission March 2024

“Demotic Narrative Literature and the Hebrew Bible,” in Cross, Kade, and Schipper, eds., *The Routledge Handbook of Ancient Egypt and the Bible*, for submission April 2024

“Egyptian Magic and the Hebrew Bible,” in Cross, Kade, and Schipper eds., *The Routledge Handbook of Ancient Egypt and the Bible*, for submission April 2024

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

“The Teaching of Amenemope,” in *Global Humanities Reader: Engaging Ancient Worlds and Perspectives*, ed. Brian S. Hook, Sophie Mills, Katherine C. Zubko, Keya Maitra, pp. 77-79, 2022

“Egyptian Love Poetry,” in *Global Humanities Reader: Engaging Ancient Worlds and Perspectives*, ed. Brian S. Hook, Sophie Mills, Katherine C. Zubko, Keya Maitra, pp. 98-100, 2022

“The Epic of Gilgamesh,” in *Global Humanities Reader: Engaging Ancient Worlds and Perspectives*, ed. Brian S. Hook, Sophie Mills, Katherine C. Zubko, Keya Maitra, pp. 236-238, 2022

“Missing Pages: Two Manuscripts of the Samaritan Torah in the Oriental Institute,” *Oriental Institute News & Notes* 242, pp. 6-15, 2017

BOOK REVIEWS

Claudia Suhr, *Die ägyptische "Ich-Erzählung": eine narratologische Untersuchung*, *Review of Biblical Literature*, 2020

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Cross/Rantz Fellowship, 2016-2022
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago

Jacob Greenberg Memorial Dissertation Year Fellowship, 2018-2019
Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies, University of Chicago

Karen Dinal Memorial Award for teaching undergraduate writing, 2017
The College, University of Chicago

Graduate Fellowship, 2011-2015
Division of the Humanities, University of Chicago

PAPERS AND LECTURES

“Philology as Leisure in the Book of Ruth.” Paper to be delivered at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Nov. 11th-21st, 2023

“Are All Texts Rivers? The Ending of MT Esther and the Multitextuality of Prose Fiction in the Hellenistic Period.” Paper to be delivered at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Nov. 11th-21st, 2023

with José Rafael Saade, “Egypt as Garden in the (Post-)Achaemenid Conceptualization of Space and History.” Paper delivered at the European Association of Biblical Studies Annual Meeting, July 12th, 2023

“Rethinking the Ending of Esther in Light of Demotic Egyptian Papyri.” Invited paper delivered at the Tagung der Fachgruppe für Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft, Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft für Theologie, Berlin, March 4th, 2023

- “A ‘véritable cycle romanesque?’ The Relationship between P. Krall and P. Spiegelberg Reconsidered.” Paper delivered at the 14th International Demotic Congress, Heidelberg, Sept. 6th, 2022
- “Egyptian Scribes Writing Northwest Semitic.” Invited lecture delivered at the Lehrstuhl “Geschichte Israels in der altorientalischen Welt,” Theologische Fakultät, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, July 28th, 2022
- “Group Writing as Text-Making Technique.” Paper delivered at the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities Scholars’ Colloquium, Online, Nov. 5th, 2021
- Respondent to a paper by Sunwoo Lee, “Pain in Egyptian Literary Narratives,” given in the Affect and the Emotions Workshop, University of Chicago, April 7th, 2021
- “*Mouvance* and the Storyteller’s Art in Manuscripts of a Demotic Novella.” Paper delivered at the Early Text Cultures reading group (Oxford), “Writing Orality” Series, Online, Feb. 18th, 2021
- “Literature in Ancient Egyptian Society.” Online talk given for the Oriental Institute Literature Workshop, February 13th, 2021
- “The Visual Possibilities of Narrative in the Demotic *Battle for the Prebend of Amun*.” Paper delivered at the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities Scholars’ Colloquium, Online, Nov 6th-8th, 2020
- “Finding God in Nineveh: A Case Study in Judean and Egyptian Prophetic Imagination.” Invited paper delivered at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Online Nov. 21st-24th, 2020
- “When Storytelling Becomes Canonical: Changing Fortunes of the Novella in Hellenistic and Roman Judea and Egypt.” Paper delivered at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Online, Nov. 21st-24th, 2020
- “Between the Cosmopolitan and the Vernacular: Private Literature in the Post-Iron Age Southeastern Mediterranean.” Paper delivered online American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting, Online, Nov. 18th-21st, 2020
- “Who Are the Samaritans?” Online talk given for the Oriental Institute Sunday Seminar, August 16th, 2020
- “Biblical Hebrew.” Online talk given for the Oriental Institute Language Seminar, May 31st, 2020
- “Judean and Egyptian Novellas of the Achaemenid and Hellenistic Periods.” Online lecture delivered for the Oriental Institute Members’ Lecture series, April 8th, 2020
- “Genre Matters: Jonah as Novella.” Paper delivered at the Southeastern Commission on the Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Feb. 28th-Mar. 1st, 2020
- “Books without Authors: Who Wrote (and Read) the First Novels?” Lecture given at the Brown Bag Lecture series, Ramsey Library, University of North Carolina Asheville, February 14th, 2019
- “‘Suit the action to the word, the word to the action’: A New Reading of a Northwest Semitic Incantation in Egyptian Script (P. BM 10042, col. XII).” Paper delivered at the American Schools of

Oriental Research Annual Meeting, Nov. 14th-17th, 2018

“Envisioning a Compiler at Work: Scribal Features of Papyrus Amherst 63.” Paper delivered at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Nov. 18th, 2018

“Science and Technology of Writing in Ancient Egypt.” Lecture given at the Teacher Cohort Academy, Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, July 11th, 2018

Discussant, “Digital Humanities and Middle Eastern Studies” Panel at the Middle Eastern History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago, May 5th, 2018

“Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible: A Manuscript-Based Overview.” Lecture given at the Critical Editions for Digital Analysis and Research Symposium, University of Chicago, May 4th, 2018

Moderator, “Which Way Forward: Digital Humanities and Middle Eastern Studies” Roundtable. Middle Eastern History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago, May 4th, 2018

“Art and Architecture of Ancient Egypt.” Talk given for the Oriental Institute Public Scholars program, Homewood Public Library, Homewood IL, June 20th, 2017

“The First Biblical Manuscripts.” Gallery talk given for the Oriental Institute Gallery Talk series, May 5th, 2017

“Building the Pyramids.” Talk given for the Oriental Institute Public Scholars program, Itasca Public Library, Itasca IL, February 16th, 2017

“Medicine and Magic of Ancient Egypt.” Talk given for the Oriental Institute Public Scholars program, Acorn Public Library, Oak Forest IL, November 11th, 2016

“What Can Ancient Egypt Tell Us About the Bible?” Talk given at the Oriental Institute Volunteer’s Day, March 14th, 2016

“Ancient Israel Outside the Bible.” Talk given for the Oriental Institute Gallery Talk series, March 3rd, 2016

“‘The Earth from Which He Was Taken’: The Shift of Speaker in Genesis 3:22-23.” Paper delivered at the Southwestern Conference on Religious Studies Annual Meeting, March 5th, 2011

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

“Demotic Literature and the Dead Sea Scrolls,” organized by the DEMBIB project, to be held at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, May 13th-15th, 2024

with Carl Bryant Shook, Middle Eastern History and Theory Conference, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Chicago, May 4th-5th, 2018

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Entry editor, Chicago Demotic Dictionary, Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, University of

Chicago, 2014-2018

Database editor, Critical Editions for Digital Analysis and Research (CEDAR), OCHRE Data Systems, Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, University of Chicago, 2017-2018

Research assistantships

Daniel Schwartz, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (visiting scholar in the Jewish Studies Program, University of Chicago), 2017

Steve Vinson, Indiana University at Bloomington, 2016-2017

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Advisory board member for working group “Comparing Ancient Chronographic Historiographies from Mesopotamia, Egypt, Judah, and Greece in the Persian and Early Hellenistic Periods,” European Association for Biblical Studies Research Group, 2021-present

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Cohort member, First Year Pilot Program, 2020
University of North Carolina Asheville

Public outreach and content specialist, Museum of the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, 2015-2020
University of Chicago

Coordinator, Hebrew Bible Workshop, 2017-2018
University of Chicago

Graduate Student Advisory Committee, Museum of the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, 2015-2016
University of Chicago

INVITED PARTICIPATION

Participant in “Digital Editions, Digital Corpora, and New Possibilities for the Humanities in the Academy and Beyond,” a 2018 NEH Institute for Advanced Technology in the Digital Humanities, Perseus Project, Tufts University, July 16th-27th, 2018

Participant in the Chicago-Yale Pentateuch Colloquium, Yale Divinity School, Feb. 25th-27th, 2018

ANCIENT LANGUAGES

* Passed 4 hour comprehensive exam, ** Passed 8 hour comprehensive exam

Aramaic (Old, Biblical*, Imperial*), Coptic*, Egyptian (Old*, Middle**, Late*, Demotic**, Ptolemaic Hieroglyphs), Greek, Hebrew**, Latin, Phoenician/Punic*, Ugaritic*