



Intensive Course

Judeans in Babylonia: The Babylonian Exile in Cuneiform Texts

4–7 June 2019

Dr. Tero Alstola, University of Helsinki

The Babylonian Exile of Judeans is a watershed in the development of Judaism. Until now, the historical reconstruction of this formative period has been primarily based on biblical sources. The ongoing publication of texts from Yahudu, the “town of Judah” in Babylonia, is changing this picture right now. These cuneiform tablets allow us to study the everyday life of Judeans in Babylonia and learn more about the nature of their exile. At the same time, the publication of new texts has induced fresh interest in the study of other cuneiform sources relating to Judeans. As a result, life in exile and family histories of certain Judeans can be studied in detail.

The course invites students to explore these new rich sources. The cuneiform texts and the social world emerging from them will be the focal point of investigation, but this new data will be set in the framework of archaeological work in Judah and biblical sources related to the exile. Students will learn about Babylonian society, the everyday life of Judean exiles, and the dynamics between immigrants, their host society and the imperial administration. Moreover, students will learn how to use primary sources to study the social history of the ancient Near East. The course will also address the methodological questions related to studying ancient societies, using historical sources, and identifying immigrants in cuneiform texts.

Language

The course will be taught in English. Knowledge of Akkadian or cuneiform script is not required, and all the sources can be read in English translation. Students who know Akkadian have a chance to familiarize themselves with the Late Babylonian dialect and with the genre of legal texts from the sixth and fifth centuries BCE.

Lecturer

Dr. Tero Alstola is a postdoctoral fellow at the Centre of Excellence in Ancient Near Eastern Empires at the University of Helsinki. Expert of Near Eastern cultures and languages, Dr. Alstola has extensive experience researching issues of migration in Babylonian society in the first millennium BCE through the close study of cuneiform sources.



Location

University of Basel, Rosshofgasse (Schnitz), Seminarraum S 02.

We can help with sourcing accommodation in Basel. Please contact us for more information.

Schedule

The intensive runs from Tuesday 4 June, 9:15am, to Friday 7 June, 12pm.

It consists of six interactive sessions (approx. 3 hours each), as well as a public lecture on the Wednesday evening (6:15pm-7:45pm).

Cost

The course is free of charge for students from Swiss and EUCOR universities. For all other students, registration costs 120 CHF per person. However, students with limited financial means may participate for free. Contact us to discuss.

Participation

Register online before March 18, 2019.

- Students from Swiss and EUCOR universities, please refer to: www.unibas.ch/de/Studium/Im-Studium/Belegen.html
- All others, please register as an auditor online: www.unibas.ch/en/Studies/Degree-Programs/Course-Auditors.html

Questions? Please contact **Dr. Julia Rhyder**

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