

PD Dr. Stephen Germany

Post-Doctoral Fellow
Universität Basel – Theologische Fakultät
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Education

- 2023 Habilitation, University of Basel
Habilitation thesis: “Kingmakers and Kingbreakers: Philistines, Arameans, and Historical Patterning in Samuel–Kings”
- 2016 Ph.D., Emory University
Religion – Hebrew Bible, certificate in Jewish Studies
Dissertation: “Parallel Narratives in Exodus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy and the Identification of Pre-Priestly Material in the Pentateuch”
Dissertation committee: Jacob Wright, Carol Newsom, William Gilders, Reinhard Kratz
- 2011 M.T.S., Harvard University
Specialization: Hebrew Bible
- 2008 B.A., Oglethorpe University
Religious Studies, French, Spanish (*summa cum laude*)

International experience:

- 2018– University of Basel (teaching, research)
- 2014–2015 Georg-August-Universität Göttingen (research)
- 2014 Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (research)
- 2010, 2011 Brandeis-Middlebury School of Hebrew (language study)
- 2009 Technische Universität Dortmund (study)
- 2008 Universidad San Francisco de Quito (study)
- 2007, 2014 Archaeological excavations at Tel Halif, Israel (volunteer, staff)
- 2005–2006 Université Catholique de Lille (study)

Pedagogical training:

- 2020– Certificate in university teaching (*Hochschuldidaktik*), University of Basel
70 hours of coursework, planned completion in 2023
- 2011 Teaching Assistant Training and Teaching Opportunity (TATTO), Emory University
Three-day intensive workshop, August 22–24, 2011

Language Competency:

- Ancient: Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic, Akkadian, Middle & Late Egyptian, Ugaritic
Modern: English (native), French, German, Hebrew, Spanish

Work Experience

- 2019– Post-Doctoral Fellow
“Transforming Memories of Collective Violence in the Hebrew Bible”
Swiss National Science Foundation Grant, Universität Basel
- 2018 Visiting Instructor
Universität Basel – Theologische Fakultät
- 2016–2018 Academic Translator in Hebrew Bible Studies
- 2014 Research Assistant
Seminar für Altes Testament, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
- 2012–2013 Student Intern, Bible Odyssey Website
Society of Biblical Literature; Atlanta, Ga.

Teaching Experience

University of Basel:

- 2023 Theological Interpretation of History in the Hebrew Bible: The Case of Chronicles
(BA/MA lecture course, in German)
Petra: Capital of the Nabateans (BA/MA discussion section, in German)
- 2022 The Megilloth and the Jewish Liturgical Year
(BA/MA seminar, in German)
Methods in the Study of the Hebrew Bible (BA/MA seminar, in German)
- 2021 Israel and the Nations: Cognitive Geography in the Prophetic Oracles on the Nations
(BA/MA seminar with Hebrew, in German)
Memory: Recent Theories and Ancient Mediterranean Texts
(MA seminar, co-taught with Sonja Ammann and Jenna Kemp)
Methods in the Study of the Hebrew Bible
(BA/MA seminar, co-taught with Helge Bezold, in German)
War and Kingship in Biblical Historiography (BA/MA seminar with Hebrew, in German)
- 2020 Jewish Apocalyptic Literature (BA/MA seminar, in German)
- 2019 The Twelve Tribes of Israel (BA seminar with Hebrew, in German)
- 2018 The Book of Exodus (BA seminar with Hebrew, in German)

Emory University:

- 2016 German for Theology Students (non-credit tutorial)
- 2013 Introduction to Jewish Civilization (Teaching Associate, with William Gilders)
- 2011–2012 Interpretation of the Old Testament (Teaching Assistant, with Joel LeMon)

Leadership in Scholarly Exchange

- 2022 Conference co-organizer (with Benedikt Hensel), “The Book of Samuel in the Shadow of Empires,” Basel, October 12–14, 2022
- 2022 Conference co-organizer (with Christoph Berner and Harald Samuel), “Book Seams in the Hexateuch III: The Book of Leviticus and its Literary Transitions,” online, March 15–16, 2022
- 2022– Steering Committee Member, Book of Deuteronomy, SBL Annual Meeting
- 2021– Program Unit co-chair (with Meike Röhrig), Pentateuch, SBL International Meeting
- 2020–2022 Project coordinator, “Aufarbeitung der archäologischen Sammlung der Theologischen Fakultät Basel”
- 2020 Conference co-organizer (with Sonja Ammann, Julia Rhyder, and Helge Bezold), “Historical Narratives and Memorialization of Collective Violence in Antiquity,” online webinar series, September 1 – December 15, 2020

Grants

- 2021 Swiss National Science Foundation “Scientific Exchanges” grant for the conference “The Book of Samuel in the Shadow of Empires” (co-applicant: Benedikt Hensel)
- 2020 Fritz Thyssen Stiftung grant for the conference “Book Seams in the Hexateuch, Part III” (co-applicants: Christoph Berner and Harald Samuel)
- 2014–2015 Fulbright Research Grant (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen)
- 2014–2015 DAAD Research Grant (declined in favor of the Fulbright Research Grant)
- 2011–2016 Tam Institute for Jewish Studies Doctoral Fellowship, Emory University
- 2011 Kathryn Davis Fellows for Peace, Middlebury College (School of Hebrew)
- 2009 DAAD Undergraduate Scholarship (Technische Universität Dortmund)
- 2004–2008 James Edward Oglethorpe Scholarship, Oglethorpe University

Awards

- 2021 University of Basel Teaching Excellence Award (Credit Suisse Award for Best Teaching in the category “Future Talents”)
- 2010 Distinguished Student Award, Middlebury College Language Schools
- 2009 James Edward Oglethorpe Award, Oglethorpe University
- 2009 Sally Hull Weltner Award for Scholarship, Oglethorpe University
- 2008 President’s Citizenship Award, Oglethorpe University

Publications

Monographs:

Forthcoming: *Kingmakers and Kingbreakers: Philistines, Arameans, and Historical Patterning in Samuel–Kings*. *Orientalische Religionen in der Antike / Research on Israel and Aram in Biblical Times*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, anticipated publication in fall 2023.

The Exodus-Conquest Narrative: The Composition of the Non-Priestly Narratives in Exodus–Joshua. *Forschungen zum Alten Testament* 115. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2017.

Articles (peer reviewed):

“Saul and David, Israel and Judah: The Book of Samuel as Paradigmatic History.” *Vetus Testamentum* (forthcoming 2023, published online Sept. 2022. DOI: 10.1163/15685330-bja10110).

“The Literary and Theological Function of the Philistines and Arameans in Chronicles.” *Religions* 14,446 (2023), 1–9. Online: <https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/14/4/446>

“Scribal Cartography in Numbers 32, Deuteronomy 2–3, and Joshua 12–13.” *Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins* 137:2 (2021): 142–166.

“Self-Defense as a *casus belli* in Ancient Mesopotamian and Hittite Literature and in the Hebrew Bible.” *Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel* 10 (2021): 30–44.

“Die Bearbeitung des deuteronomischen Gesetzes im Lichte biblischer Erzählungen.” *Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft* 131 (2019): 43–57.

“Concepts of Land in Numbers and Joshua.” *Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel* 8 (2019): 313–331.

“The Hexateuch Hypothesis: A History of Research and Current Approaches.” *Currents in Biblical Research* 16:2 (2018): 131–156.

Book Chapters:

“Political Prophet, Wonder Worker, and Trailblazer: The Figure of Elijah in Biblical Tradition.” In *Depictions of the Prophet Elijah*. Edited by Barbara Crostini and Andrei Dumitrescu. *Contexts of Ancient and Medieval Anthropology*. Leiden: Brill, forthcoming 2023.

“Arameans in the Book of Samuel: Literary, Historical, and Archaeological Perspectives” (with Assaf Kleiman). In *Israel, Judah, and Neighboring Groups in the Book of Samuel: Historical and Textual Approaches*. Edited by Stephen Germany and Benedikt Hensel. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, forthcoming 2023.

“Reconsidering the Religio-Historical Background of the ‘Uncircumcised Philistine’ Motif in the Book of Samuel.” In *Between Fiction and Facts: Historicity and Religiosity in the Books of Samuel*. Edited by Johannes Klein. *Beiträge zur Wissenschaft vom Alten und Neuen Testament*. Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, forthcoming 2023.

“Israelite and Judahite Involvement in Transjordan during the Monarchic Period: A Synthesis of the Biblical and Extrabiblical Sources.” In *Transjordan and the Southern Levant: New Approaches Regarding the Iron Age and the Persian Period from Hebrew Bible Studies and Archaeology*. Edited by Benedikt Hensel. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, forthcoming 2023.

“Memorializing Saul’s Wars in Samuel and Chronicles.” In *Collective Violence and Memory in the Ancient Mediterranean*. Edited by Sonja Ammann, Helge Bezold, Stephen Germany, and Julia Rhyder. Culture and History of the Ancient Near East. Leiden: Brill, forthcoming 2023.

“The Attestation of the Book-Seam between Numbers and Deuteronomy in the Early Textual Witnesses.” Pages 3–18 in *Book-Seams in the Hexateuch II: The Book of Deuteronomy and its Literary Transitions*. Edited by Christoph Berner, Stephen Germany, and Harald Samuel. Forschungen zum Alten Testament. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, forthcoming 2023.

“The Attestation of the Book-Seam between Deuteronomy and Joshua in the Early Textual Witnesses.” Pages 103–119 in *Book-Seams in the Hexateuch II: The Book of Deuteronomy and its Literary Transitions*. Edited by Christoph Berner, Stephen Germany, and Harald Samuel. Forschungen zum Alten Testament. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, forthcoming 2023.

“The Literary Transition from Deuteronomy 34 to Joshua 1.” Pages 139–150 in *Book-Seams in the Hexateuch II: The Book of Deuteronomy and its Literary Transitions*. Edited by Christoph Berner, Stephen Germany, and Harald Samuel. Forschungen zum Alten Testament. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, forthcoming 2023.

“Gilead in 2 Samuel and the Discourse on Diaspora during the Persian Period.” Pages 175–189 in *Social Groups behind the Biblical Traditions: Identity Perspectives from Egypt, Transjordan, Mesopotamia, and Israel in the Second Temple Period*. Edited by Benedikt Hensel, Bartosz Adamczewski, and Dany Nocquet. Forschungen zum Alten Testament 167. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2023.

“The ‘Edom Texts’ in Samuel–Kings in Inner- and Extrabiblical Perspective.” Pages 363–391 in *About Edom and Idumea in the Persian Period: Recent Research and Approaches from Archaeology, Hebrew Bible Studies and Ancient Near Eastern Studies*. Edited by Benedikt Hensel, Ehud Ben Zvi, and Diana Edelman. Worlds of the Ancient Near East and Mediterranean. London: Equinox, 2022.

“The Literary Relationship between Genesis 50–Exodus 1 and Joshua 24–Judges 2.” Pages 385–400 in *Book-Seams in the Hexateuch I: The Literary Transitions between the Books of Genesis/Exodus and Joshua/Judges*. Edited by Christoph Berner and Harald Samuel. Forschungen zum Alten Testament 120. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2018.

Edited Volumes:

Israel, Judah, and Neighboring Groups in the Book of Samuel: Historical and Textual Approaches. Co-edited with Benedikt Hensel. Orientalische Religionen in der Antike / Research on Israel and Aram in Biblical Times. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, forthcoming 2023.

Collective Violence and Memory in the Ancient Mediterranean. Co-edited with Sonja Ammann, Helge Bezold, and Julia Rhyder. Culture and History of the Ancient Near East. Leiden: Brill, forthcoming 2023.

Book-Seams in the Hexateuch II: The Book of Deuteronomy and its Literary Transitions. Co-edited with Christoph Berner and Harald Samuel. *Forschungen zum Alten Testament*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, forthcoming 2023.

Die Archäologische Sammlung der Theologische Fakultät Basel. Co-edited with Oskar Kaelin. Basel: Theologische Fakultät der Universität Basel, 2022.

Reference Materials:

“Melchizedek: Hebrew Bible/Old Testament.” In *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, vol. 18, cols. 524–526. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2020.

“מסכה/נסך,” “גוזה,” “מים,” “מזבח”. Pages 627–32, 657–63, 925–28, 991–93 in *Theologisches Wörterbuch zu den Qumrantexten, Band II*. Edited by Heinz-Josef Fabry and Ulrich Dahmen. Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 2013.

Reviews:

Jeon, Jaeyoung. *From the Reed Sea to Kadesh: A Redactional and Socio-historical Study of the Pentateuchal Wilderness Narrative*. *Forschungen zum Alten Testament* 159. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2022. In: *Theologische Literaturzeitung*, forthcoming 2023.

Frevel, Christian. *Im Lesen verstehen: Studien zu Theologie und Exegese*. Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft 482. Berlin: de Gruyter, 2017. In: *Review of Biblical Literature* [www.bookreviews.org], published January 24, 2019.

Köckert, Matthias. *Von Jakob zu Abraham. Studien zum Buch Genesis*. *Forschungen zum Alten Testament* 147. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2021. In: *Review of Biblical Literature* [www.bookreviews.org], published April 22, 2022.

Schmid, Konrad and Jens Schröter. *Die Entstehung der Bibel: Von den ersten Texten zu den heiligen Schriften*. Munich: C. H. Beck, 2019. In: *Theologische Zeitschrift* 76:1 (2020): 93–96.

Conference Presentations

“Die fünf Megillot in kanonischem Kontext.” Habilitation lecture, University of Basel, April 2023

“Political Prophet, Wonder Worker, and Trailblazer: The Figure of Elijah in Biblical Tradition.” *Cantieri dell’agiografia*, VI edizione (AISSCA: Associazione italiana per lo studio della santità del culti e dell’agiografia), Rome, January 2023.

“Israel, Judah, and Historical Typology in the Book of Samuel.” *The Book of Samuel in the Shadow of Empires: Relations between Israel, Judah, and Neighboring Nations in Historical, Compositional, and Theological Perspective*, Basel, October 2022.

“David and Inaros: Comparing Memories of Imperial Domination in the Book of Samuel and in Demotic Literature.” Workshop of the ERC project “From Texts to Literature: Demotic Egyptian Papyri and the Formation of the Hebrew Bible,” Paris, September 2022

“Reconsidering the Religio-historical Background of the ‘Uncircumcised Philistine’ Motif in the Book of Samuel.” 24th Congress of the International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament (IOSOT), Zürich, August 2022

“Transforming Memories of Assyrian Imperialism in the Hebrew Bible and Egyptian Literature.” Society of Biblical Literature International Meeting, Salzburg, July 2022

“Judahite Interests in Transjordan? Comparing the Biblical and Extrabiblical Evidence.” Transjordan in Biblical Traditions: Exploring New Avenues and Perspectives for Future Research on Ancient Transjordan from Hebrew Bible Studies and Related Fields, Oldenburg, July 2022

“Yahwistic Communities in Persian-Period Gilead? Biblical and Extrabiblical Perspectives.” European Association of Biblical Studies annual meeting, Wuppertal, August 2021 (online)

“Von Königsmachern und Verwüstern: Die Philister und Aramäer in der Geschichtsschreibung von Samuel–Könige.” Forschungsseminar Altes Testament, Universität Zürich (online), November 2020

“Memorializing Saul’s Wars in Samuel and Chronicles.” Historical Narratives and the Memorialization of Collective Violence in Antiquity, Basel, September 2020 (online lecture series)

“Israelite and Judahite Military Alliances between Myth and History: Case Studies from the Former Prophets.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Diego, November 2019

“Davids Kriege in 1 Chr 18–20.” Swiss Society for Old Testament Study, Zürich, September 2019

“Delegitimizing Intrareligious Violence in Josh 22: An Argument from the Periphery to the Center.” Religiöse (De-)Legitimationsansätze von Gewalt in der Antike, Mainz, September 2019

“Divine and Human Agency in the Conquest Accounts in Joshua and Judges.” Celtic Conference in Classics, Coimbra, June 2019

“Self-Defense as a *casus belli* in Ancient Near Eastern and Biblical Literature.” Basel–Göttingen–Lausanne Graduate Meeting, Göttingen, June 2019

“The Literary Transition from Deuteronomy 34 to Joshua 1.” Book-Seams in the Hexateuch III: Deuteronomy and its Literary Transitions, Göttingen, September 2018

“Concepts of Land in Numbers and Joshua.” Basel–Göttingen–Lausanne Graduate Meeting, Basel, May 2018

“Die Bearbeitung des deuteronomischen Gesetzes im Lichte biblischer Erzählungen. Fallbeispiele einer ‘umgekehrten’ Abhängigkeitsrichtung von Gesetzes- und Erzähltexten im Alten Testament.” Workshop ‘Forschungen zum Alten Testament in Göttingen’; Göttingen, November 2017

“The Reception of the Laws of Deuteronomy in the Book of Judges.” Society of Biblical Literature International Meeting; Berlin, August 2017

“The Compositional Horizon of the Verb ‘yarash’ (Qal and Hiphil) in Deuteronomy and Joshua: A Re-evaluation.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting; Atlanta, November 2015

“Identifying Post-Priestly Material in the Sinai Pericope (Exod 19–24; 32–34): Some Methodological Considerations.” Hebrew Bible, Septuagint, and Other Scriptural Traditions: Exploring the Interface between Literary and Religious History; Berlin, June 2015

“The Transitions between the Books of Joshua/Judges and Genesis/Exodus: Some Further Considerations.” Book-Seams in the Hexateuch II: The Literary Transition between the Books of Joshua and Judges; Göttingen, March 2015

“Do Num 13–14 and Deut 1:19–46 Preserve Traces of a Pre-Priestly Spy Story?” Seminar für Altes Testament – Doktorandenkolloquium; Göttingen, December 2014

“From King to Community: Collective Sin as the Cause of Exile in the Deuteronomistic History.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting; Baltimore, November 2013

“Ancient Near Eastern Offering Scenes and Biblical Ritual Texts: A Comparison of Iconographic and Textual Representations of Ritual Practice.” Society of Biblical Literature International Meeting; St. Andrews, July 2013

“Did the Achaemenids Impose a Change in the Sacrificial Cult at the Judean Temple at Elephantine?” Hekhal: The Irish Society for the Study of the Ancient Near East: First Annual Symposium, “The Other Temples”; Dublin, May 2012

“Abraham’s Ten Trials and the Exodus Narratives in the Book of Jubilees and Rabbinic Literature.” Oglethorpe University Symposium in the Liberal Arts and Sciences; Atlanta, March 2012

“Forces of Nature in Jewish and Christian Apocalyptic Literature.” 16th Symposium of Religious Studies Students; Heidelberg, May 2009

Contributions to Public Scholarship

“2. Mose 2,1–10.” [“Exod 2:1–10.”] *Exegese für die Predigt*. <https://www.bibelwissenschaft.de/efp>

“Der Feind im Inneren. Alttestamentliche Kriegserzählungen als Beitrag zur Identitätsbildung.” [“The Enemy Within: The Role of Biblical War Narratives in Identity Formation.”] *Prospektiv: Theologisches und Religionswissenschaftliches aus Basel*, no. 15 (2022): 7.

“Abraham and Isaac in Gerar Foreshadows Judea under Persian Rule.” TheTorah.com, published 2021.

English:

<https://www.thetorah.com/article/abraham-and-isaac-in-gerar-foreshadows-judea-under-persian-rule>

Hebrew:

<https://dev.thetorah.co.il/article/abraham-and-isaac-in-gerar-foreshadows-judea-under-persian-rule>

Translations (selection)

Berlejung, Angelika. *Divine Secrets and Human Imaginations: Studies on the History of Religion and Anthropology of the Ancient Near East and the Old Testament*. Orientalische Religionen in der Antike 42. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2021.

Briant, Pierre. "Persia and the Persians." Pages 379–415 in *The World Around the Old Testament: The People and Places of the Ancient Near East*. Edited by Bill T. Arnold and Brent A. Strawn. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2016.

Gertz, Jan Christian. "The Relative Independence of the Books of Genesis and Exodus." Pages 55–72 in *Book-Seams in the Hexateuch I: The Literary Transitions between the Books of Genesis/Exodus and Joshua/Judges*. Edited by Christoph Berner and Harald Samuel. Forschungen zum Alten Testament 120. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2018.

Jeremias, Jörg. "Three Theses on the Early History of Israel." Pages 145–156 in *The Origins of Yahwism*. Edited by Jürgen van Oorschot and Markus Witte. Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft 484. Berlin: de Gruyter, 2017.

Kratz, Reinhard G. "The Analysis of the Pentateuch: An Attempt to Overcome Barriers of Thinking." *Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft* 128 (2016): 529–561.

Römer, Thomas. "The Invention of History in Ancient Judah and the Formation of the Hebrew Bible." *Die Welt des Orients* 45 (2015): 255–272.

Schipper, Bernd U. *Proverbs 1–15*. Hermeneia. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2019. Translation of *Sprüche (Proverbia)*, Teilband 1. Biblischer Kommentar Altes Testament 17. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2018.