

Jessie DeGrado

Assistant Professor of Ancient Middle Eastern Studies

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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Education

- 2018 **PhD** | THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO Divinity School.
Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East
“Authoring Empire: Intellectual Engagement with Assyria in the Bible.”
Simeon Chavel (advisor), Walter Farber, Jeffrey Stackert, Daniel Fleming
With honors
- 2011 **AM** | THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO Divinity School.
Historical Studies in Religion
- 2008–2009 **Graduate Year Program** | THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM
Rothberg International School
Semitic Languages
- 2008 **BA** | CORNELL UNIVERSITY College of Arts and Sciences.
Mathematics
Cum laude with distinction in all subjects

Academic Appointments

- 2020–pres. UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Assistant Professor
- 2019–2020 BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
Assistant Professor
- 2017–2019 SAINT JOSEPH’S UNIVERSITY
Adjunct Professor
- 2015–2016 THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
Lecturer

Books

- (Prep) *Authoring Empire: Assyria, Judah, and the Dynamics of Imperial Exchange.*
In preparation for submission to Cambridge University Press (Fall 2021).

Peer Reviewed Articles

- (2021) “Kidnapping the Gods: Assyrian Praxis and the Rhetoric of Aniconism in
Isaiah 10:5–11.” Forthcoming in *Journal of the Ancient Near Eastern Society.*
- 2020 “Text- and Source-Criticism of 1 Samuel 17–18: A Complete Account” (co-
authored with Simeon Chavel). *Vetus Testamentum* 70: 553–580.

- 2020 “An Infelicitous Feast: Ritualized Consumption and Divine Rejection in Amos 6:1–7.” *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament*. 45: 178–197
- 2019 “The Aramaic Inscription of the Ashmolean Museum Pazuzu Statuette and Ancient Middle Eastern Magic” (co-authored with Madadh Richey). *Semitica et classica* 12: 17–64.
- 2019 “King of the Four Quarters: Diversity as a Rhetorical Strategy of the Neo-Assyrian Empire.” *Iraq* 81: 107–125.
- 2018 “The קדשה in Hosea 4:14a: Putting the (Myth of the) Sacred Prostitute to Bed.” *Vetus Testamentum* 68:1–33.
- 2017 “An Aramaic-Inscribed Lamaštu Amulet from Zincirli” (co-authored with Madadh Richey). *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* 377: 107–133.

Articles in Preparation and Under Review

- (Prep) “Levantine Fashions, Assyrian Style: Clothing the Northern Levant in Assyrian Art” In preparation for submission to the *The American Journal of Archaeology*.
- (Prep) “The Many Lives of the NU-GIG/*qadištu*.” In preparation for submission to the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*.
- (Prep) “Transcending Monotheism: Orientalism, Political Theology, and the Comparative Method in Ancient Middle Eastern Studies.” In preparation for submission to *The Journal of Religion*.

Invited Lectures and Workshop Presentations

- (2021) “What Has the Bible Ever Done for Us (Assyriologists)? Hybridity and the Dialectics of Imperial Exchange in the First Millennium Southern Levant.” *Jehu’s Tribute*. Virtual Conference on Assyriology and Biblical Studies. 12 April 2021.
- 2020 “Imperial Envy: Appropriations of the Assyrian Tribute Scene in Royal Psalms.” Harvard University Hebrew Bible Workshop. 2 February 2020.
- 2020 “From Priest to Prostitute: The Real and Imagined Lives of the NU-GIG/*qadištu*.” Columbia University Hebrew Bible Seminar. 14 January 2020.
- 2019 “Politics and Prophecy: The Conditions of Judah’s Submission to Tiglath-pileser III.” Spirit of Scholarship: Biblical and Mesopotamian Studies in the Roman Catholic Academy. Boston College. 21–24 September, 2019.
- 2018 “An Infelicitous Feast: Ritual Banqueting and Cultic Critique in Amos 6:1–7.” Johns Hopkins University. 26 February 2018.
- 2018 “Kidnapping the Gods: Aniconism and Empire in Isaiah 10:5–11.” Yale Divinity School. 12 February 2018.
- 2016 Invited response to Elizazabeth Bloch-Smith, “Building a Back-Story: Archaeology and the Crafting of Israel’s Conquest Narratives.” Princeton Theological Seminary, Old Testament Research Colloquium. 18 October 2016.
- 2016 “The Documentary Hypothesis and the Joseph Story (Genesis 37–50).” Cornell University, Department of Near Eastern Studies. 11 October 2016.

Conference Papers

- (2021) “Vassalage As Literary Conceit in Karatepe (KAI 26) and the Deuteronomic Source.” The European Association of Biblical Studies Annual Meeting. *Postponed from August 2020*
- 2020 “Habitus of Empire: The Tribute Scene in Assyrian Art.” Living under Empires: A View from Below. Twelfth Workshop of the Melammu Project. 1–3 December 2020.
- 2020 “Bootlegs and Knockoffs: Tracking Contact through Levantine Deployments of Mesopotamian Magic.” With Madadh Richey. Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research. Date TBD.
- 2019 “Hiding in Plain Sight: The Role of the Qadištu in Mesopotamian Society.” Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research. 23 November 2019.
- 2019 “Transcending Monotheism: Problems in Scholarly Classifications of Yahweh and Assur.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. 24 November 2019.
- 2018 “Representing Ritual: Constructions of Kinship in Exodus 24.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. 18 November 2018.
- 2017 “Kidnapping the Gods: Assyria and the Idols in Isaiah 10:5–11.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. 19 November 2017.
- 2017 “The God ŠYY in the Second Amulet from Arslan Tash.” Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research. 16 November 2017.
- 2016 “An Inscribed Pazuzu Statuette at the Ashmolean Museum.” With Madadh Richey. Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research. 17 November 2016.
- 2016 “An Aramaic-Inscribed Lamaštu Amulet from Zincirli.” With Madadh Richey. Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society. 19 March 2016.
- 2015 “The *qdeshot* in Hos 4:14 and the Myth of the Sacred Prostitute.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. 22 November 2015.

Honors and Awards

Greenberg Scholar	2017–2018
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO Center for Jewish Studies	
Mellon Dissertation Fellowship	2016–2017
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO Divinity School	
Brauer Seminar Student Fellow	2012
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO Divinity School	
FLAS Summer Grant in Arabic	2011
Phi Beta Kappa	2008
CORNELL UNIVERSITY	

Service to the Field

Editorial Work

Ancient Near East section editor for *Religion Compass*. 2020–present

Committee Membership

Ancient Inscriptions. American Schools of Oriental Research National Meeting. Co-chair. 2020–present

Ancient Near East Section. Society of Biblical Literature International Meeting. Steering committee member. 2019–present

Religions of Israel and Judah in their West Asian Environment. Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. Steering committee member. 2019–present

Peer Review

SBL Ancient Near East Monograph Series.

SERAPHIM Series, Mohr Siebeck.

Advising and University Service

Committees, Brandeis University

Co-officer for graduate placement, Near Eastern and Judaic Studies Spring 2020

Graduate admissions committee, Near Eastern and Judaic Studies Spring 2020

Hiring committee, Florence Levy Kay Fellowship in Hebrew Bible and Mediterranean Cross-Cultural Textual Traditions. Spring 2020

Dissertation Committees

Eric J. Harvey. “Sing to the Lord a New(-ish) Song: A Species-History of the Egyptian Hallel (Psalms 113–118).” Brandeis University. March 2020.

Esther Brownsmith. “Inconspicuous Consumption: Conceptual Metaphors of Women as Food in the Deuteronomistic History.” Brandeis University. April 2020.

Anthony Lipscomb. “The Experience of Shame: A Literary and Lexical Study of Shame in the Hebrew Bible.” Brandeis University. In progress.

Professional Associations

American Schools of Oriental Research

American Oriental Society

Society of Biblical Literature

European Association of Biblical Studies

Colloquium for Biblical and Near Eastern Studies

Languages

Areas of Expertise

Akkadian (all dialects and periods), Hebrew (Biblical, epigraphic, and related dialects),

Aramaic (Old, Imperial, and “Biblical”), Phoenician, Ugaritic

Competencies

Sumerian, Classical Arabic, Syriac, Attic Greek, Latin

Research Languages

Hebrew, French, German, Spanish