



M.A. in the Bible & the Ancient Near East Alumni

Iosif Zhakevich, USA

I am an Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and the Managing Editor of The Master's Seminary Journal at The Master's Seminary (TMS). After my MA at Hebrew University, I completed a PhD at Harvard University. At TMS, I teach various levels of Biblical Hebrew, Aramaic, Akkadian, Hebrew Exegesis, Exegesis of Messianic Texts, and History of Biblical Criticism, among other classes. My time at HebrewU has had an indelible influence on my life, both my character and career. Not only do I value my experience there, but I have returned numerous times over the past decade and regularly recommend my students to attend the university.

Class of 2011



Jonathan Beltz, USA

I'm working on a PhD in Assyriology at Yale University and I also work at the Yale Babylonian Collection, a large collection of ancient Mesopotamian textual material and artifacts. My MA at Hebrew University's Rothberg International School really gave me the skills I need to do my current research, especially in the realm of ancient Near Eastern languages. I'm really thankful for my time at HU and everything I learned there!

Class of 2014

Yitzhak Lee-Sak, Korea

I'm currently in South Korea and working as a lecturer of Old Testament/Biblical History at the College of Theology and Graduate Theological Union, both at Yonsei University, and as a researcher at the Institute of Christianity and Culture, also at Yonsei University.

Class of 2014



Verónica Moreno, Spain

I am currently pursuing a PhD in Dead Sea Scrolls at Lorraine University in France and working as associate professor of Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic at the Israel Institute of Biblical Studies. My academic experience in the MA in the Bible and the Ancient Near East program significantly expanded my corpus of knowledge and improved the quality of my teaching.

Class of 2016

Rebekah Call, USA

I am a PhD candidate in Religious Studies — Critical Comparative Scripture at Claremont Graduate University in California. My main research emphasis is women in the Hebrew Bible, with a minor in Mormon Studies. My dissertation provides an in-depth study of the phrase "ezer k'negdo" (KJV: "help meet") in Genesis 2:18 in order to establish a better baseline for understanding gender roles in the Hebrew Bible. My aim is to graduate this summer (August 2022) and continue in academia as a professor. Prior to beginning my doctoral studies, I taught Modern Hebrew as a visiting instructor at Brigham Young University.

Class of 2012



Matheus Grillo R. de Carvalho, Brazil

I am a Brazilian scholar who, thanks to the opportunities I received at the Hebrew University, was able to learn tools of research and languages, and to join conversations in which people like me, from developing countries, are often underrepresented. Currently, I am in the fourth year of my PhD in Second Temple Judaism at McGill University, in Montréal, Canada.

Class of 2018





Philip Zhakevich, USA

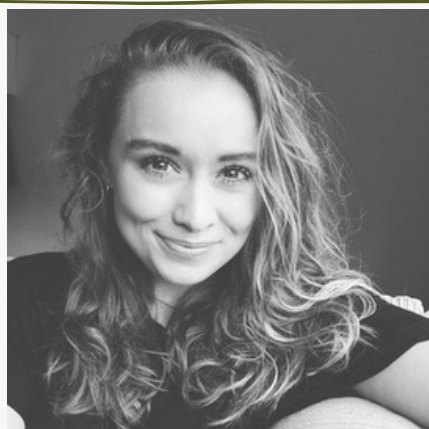
I am an Assistant Professor of Old Testament at The Master's Seminary (TMUS), where I also serve as the Director of the Center for Israeli Studies. After completing my MA in the Bible and the Ancient Near East, I pursued a PhD in Hebrew Bible and Comparative Semitic Languages at the University of Texas at Austin (2015). After that, I worked as Lecturer of Modern Hebrew at Columbia University (2015–16) and at Princeton University (2016–2022). At these institutions, I taught all levels of Modern Hebrew, Modern Hebrew Literature, Modern Israeli History and Politics, Israeli Cinema, and Classical Hebrew. I am now transitioning into my new role at TMUS, where I'll teach Classical Hebrew, Akkadian, Ugaritic, and Comparative Semitics. My time at the Hebrew University set the trajectory for my future academic career in Hebrew Bible, Hebrew Language and Ancient Semitic Languages.

Class of 2008

Connor Boyd, USA

I am currently working towards a PhD in Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies at the University of Edinburgh (New College) in Scotland. I am so thankful for my time at Hebrew University. The program provided an enriching academic community that both enlarged my world view and laid a solid foundation upon which to build during my PhD studies. In particular, the program is strong in biblical languages (Hebrew and Aramaic), ancient Semitic languages (e.g. Akkadian, Ugaritic), the background of the Hebrew Bible (historical and archaeological), and the Jewish interpretation of the Hebrew Bible (Rabbinical literature as well as Medieval Jewish Exegesis). And, of course, Modern Hebrew!

Class of 2019



Elle Grover Fricks, USA

I am located on the Palouse in Washington State, where I am the pastor of Refuge Church Pullman. I am part of the BEMA Podcast teaching team, host of the Text in Us Podcast, and teach Biblical Hebrew courses online over Zoom. You can find me at Ellegroverfricks.com.

Class of 2021

Hikaru Yamaguchi, Japan

I'm an ordained minister in Niigata City, Japan and a member of the Japanese Alliance Christ Church. I also teach Old Testament at Niigata Bible Institute. In 2007, I brought my wife and two little children with me to study in Jerusalem and we lived an extraordinary life together. I enjoyed the program and am now simply honored to be an alumnus of the Rothberg International School.

Class of 2011



Edith W. Muriu, Kenya

I am forever grateful for the opportunity to study at the Hebrew University. My professors left a lasting impression and the rigorous study expanded my breadth of knowledge in amazing ways. My expectations of understanding the Bible in its historical, geographical and cultural context were met. I love that I can read Akkadian and communicate fluently in Modern Hebrew. I am currently living in Nairobi and practicing law as I prepare for doctoral studies in the near future.

Class of 2020

Chauncey Diego Francisco Handy, USA

I'm in my final year of a PhD program in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible at the Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, NJ. I'm an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). I teach courses on the Hebrew Bible as an adjunct instructor in Spanish and English. The Bible & the ANE program allowed me to engage at a very deep level in important languages for research in Bible (Greek, Biblical Hebrew, Modern Hebrew, Aramaic and German) and the emphasis on rabbinic interpretation resulted in important connections with Judaism in my work. It was truly a one-of-a-kind academic experience!

Class of 2017





Wilian Cardoso, Brazil

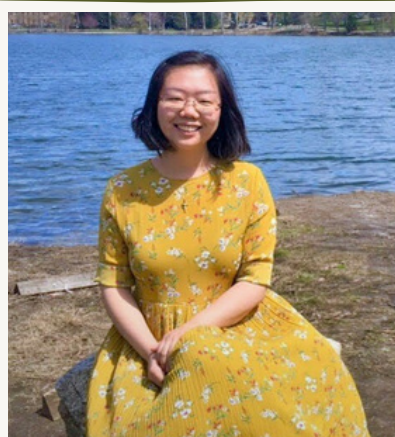
I now live in Brazil and work as an online teacher of biblical languages at the Israel Institute of Biblical Studies. Thanks to the classes I took on ancient Egypt at the Hebrew University, I also teach Egyptology in an archeology course at a university in São Paulo. Next year, I plan to enter a Ph.D. program. I feel very happy not only with my time and everything I learned in Jerusalem, but also with the doors it opened in my academic and professional life.

Class of 2021

Mark Haughwout, USA

I am currently living in Arizona. I have used my degree to teach undergraduate Hebrew Bible and Hebrew Language at Indian Bible College in Flagstaff, Arizona. I am working on several Bible topics, including a commentary for the book of Exodus. Many thanks to RIS for teaching me to be fluent in Modern and Biblical Hebrew!

Class of 2011



Wenxuan Yuan, China

I am currently working towards a PhD in Hebrew Bible/Old Testament at the University of Notre Dame. I am very grateful for the Bible & the ANE program at the Hebrew University, which enabled me to lay a strong foundation in Semitic languages (especially Hebrew and Akkadian) and ANE history.

Class of 2018

Antony Hylton, UK

I am very thankful for the training I received at Hebrew University's Rothberg International School. At present, I am a teacher at a local school (I am based in Norway with my wife and five kids). I have published books and articles in various journals. My goal is to become an assistant professor and a full professor after that. My studies in the M.A. in the Bible and the Ancient Near East opened the door to a rich and vibrant academic future.

Class of 2017



Steinar Skarpnes, Norway

Thanks to completing my graduate degree in the Bible and the Ancient Near East at the Hebrew University's Rothberg International School, I was able to attain a position as a PhD Research Fellow at the Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society.

Class of 2018

Olivier Catel, France

I'm still living in Jerusalem, at the Ecole Biblique (a Catholic Dominican Monastery). I'm a second year PhD student at the Hebrew University, in the Department of Talmud and Halakhah. My dissertation deals with fasting in early Christian and Rabbinic traditions.

Class of 2018



Christina Sandulache, Romania

I am living in Israel and currently a PhD student at the Hebrew University, in the Comparative Religions Department.

Class of 2015





Luis Quiñones-Román, USA

I am working towards a PhD in Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. I loved my time at Rothberg. The professors were very helpful in guiding me to better understand the Biblical text, and I have thus gained a strong foundation in Biblical Studies.

Class of 2020



Hope Wilson, USA

I am incredibly grateful for the education I received at the Hebrew University. Quality education often begins with quality instructors followed by quality teaching. Having the opportunity to interact with professors who are renowned experts in their field, and having access to a broad, rich and rigorous curriculum helped me grow and expand my mind. I am currently living in Washington DC and working as a Senior Advisor on the COVID Task Force at The United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Class of 2011



Joyce Leung, Hong Kong

I really loved the program, professors and all the people I met during my studies at the Rothberg International School. I have gained a strong academic foundation and wonderful friendships. I am currently doing a supplementary year in preparation for a PhD in Assyriology at the Hebrew University. Hopefully I will continue to work on my PhD in this beautiful city - Jerusalem!

Class of 2020



Seung Taek Kim, Korea

I am currently serving a local Protestant church in Korea as a pastor, making the most of the broad knowledge I acquired from the program.

Class of 2018

