

JULIA M. O'BRIEN

Paul H. and Grace L. Stern Professor in Old Testament Studies
 Lancaster Theological Seminary
 555 West James Street
 Lancaster PA 17603

RESEARCH INTERESTS

prophets; gender studies; ethical issues in reading the Hebrew Bible; violence;
 constructions of family; metaphor; images of God; reading the Bible as literature; Jewish
 and Christian interpretation of the prophetic books

PROFESSIONAL

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, PA *Professor of Old Testament*, 1997-
 present
 Meredith College, Raleigh, NC, Department of Religion and Philosophy
Assistant Professor 1989-96; *Associate Professor and Department Head*, 1996-97
 Duke Divinity School, Durham NC *Visiting Instructor*, spring 1988
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC *Visiting Lecturer*, 1985-87

EDUCATION

Duke University, Durham, NC *M. Div.*, 1984; *Ph. D.*, 1988
 Major field: Hebrew Bible and Semitic Studies
 Minors: Judaism, Literary criticism
 Dissertation: "Priest and Levite in Malachi" Advisor: Eric M. Meyers

Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, OH *Special Student*, Spring 1983
 Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC *B. A. in Religion*,
summa cum laude, 1981

WORK WITH SCHOLARLY SOCIETIES

Society of Biblical Literature (national)
 Prophetic Texts and Ancient Contexts, *Steering Committee*, 2003-present
 Program Committee, *Member*, 1996-2001
 Biblical Criticism and Literary Criticism Section, *Steering Committee*, 1996-2001
 Literature and History of Persian Period Group, *Steering Committee*, 1992-98
 Israelite Prophetic Literature Section
Chair, 1993-1997; *Co-chair* 1992-1993; *Steering Committee*, 1990-97
 Strategic Planning Committee, *Member*, 1997

Society of Biblical Literature (regional)Mid-Atlantic Regional SBL, *President*, 2003-2004Mid-Atlantic Regional SBL, *Vice President*, 2002-2003Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament Section, Southeastern Region, *Chair*, 1993-97Catholic Biblical Association, Member**HONORS AND SEMINARS:**

Luce Consultation on Theological Scholarship, convened by The Association of Theological Schools, May 2003

Rhodes Consultation for the Future of the Church-Related College, sponsored in conjunction with the Lilly Foundation, 1996-1997

Lilly Teaching Fellow for Southern region, 1995-1996

Regional Scholar of the Society of Biblical Literature, nominated by Southeastern Region, 1994

PUBLICATIONS:**Books***The Aesthetics of Violence in the Prophets*. Co-edited with Chris Franke. Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies. T & T Clark, 2009-2010.*Challenging Prophetic Metaphor: Theology and Ideology in the Prophets*. Westminster John Knox, October 2008.*Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi*. Abingdon Old Testament Commentaries. Abingdon Press, 2004.*Nahum*. Readings series. Sheffield Academic Press, 2002. (2nd edition to be published by Sheffield Phoenix, 2009)*The Yahweh/Baal Confrontation and Other Studies in Biblical Literature and Archaeology: Essays in Honor of Emmett Willard Hamrick*. Ed. by Julia M. O'Brien and Fred L. Horton, Jr. Studies in the Bible and Early Christianity, 35. Mellen Biblical Press, 1995.*Priest and Levite in Malachi*. Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series, no. 121. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1990.*Speaking of Jesus: The Use of the Old Testament in the New*. Interprovincial Women's Conference of the Moravian Church, 1994.**Articles**"Violent Pictures, Violent Cultures? The 'Aesthetics of Violence' in Contemporary Film and in Ancient Prophetic Texts." In *The Aesthetics of Violence in the Prophets*. Co-edited with Chris Franke. Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies. T & T Clark, 2009-2010.

“Nahum-Habakkuk-Zephaniah: Reading the ‘Former Prophets’ in the Persian Period.” *Interpretation* 61 (2007): 168-183.

“From Exile to Empire: A Response.” Pp. 209-214 in *Approaching Yehud: New Responses to the Study of the Persian Period*. Ed. by Jon Berquist. Semeia Studies 50. Society of Biblical Literature Press, 2007.

“The Problem of the Other(ed) Woman in Nahum.” *Archaeology of Difference: Gender, Ethnicity, Class and the "Other" in Antiquity. Studies in Honor of Eric M Meyers*. American Schools of Oriental Research, 2007.

“Who Needs the Old Testament?” Near East School of Theology. *Theological Review* XXVII.1 (2006): 16-33.

“Once and Future Gender: Gender and the Future in the Twelve,” in *Utopia and Dystopia in Prophetic Literature*. Ed. by Ehud Ben Zvi. Finnish Exegetical Society, University of Helsinki, 2006.

“Nineveh to Judah.” Pp. 91-95 in *Yours Faithfully: Virtual Letters from the Bible*. Ed. by Philip R. Davies. Equinox, 2004.

“‘Academic’ vs. ‘Confessional’ Study of the Bible in the Postmodern Classroom: A Response to Philip Davies and David Clines.” Pp. 169-182 in *Professing in the Postmodern Academy: Faculty and the Future of Church-Related Colleges*. Ed. by Stephen Haynes. Baylor University Press, 2002.

“On Saying ‘No’ to a Prophet.” *Semeia* 72 (1997): 111-124. Reprinted in *Prophets and Daniel. A Feminist Companion to the Bible (second series)*, ed. Athalya Brenner. Sheffield Academic Press, 2001.

“Judah as Wife and Husband: Deconstructing Gender in Malachi.” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 115 (1996): 243-252.

"Malachi in Recent Research." *Currents in Research: Biblical Studies* 3 (1995): 81-94.

"1 Corinthians 15:19-26" [Between Text and Sermon], *Interpretation* 49 (1995): 182-185.

“Historical Criticism as Liberator and Master: Malachi as a Post-Exilic Document.” Pp. 57-79 in *The Yahweh/Baal Confrontation and Other Studies in Biblical Literature and Archaeology: Essays in Honor of Emmett Willard Hamrick*. Ed. by Julia M. O’Brien and Fred L. Horton, Jr. *Studies in the Bible and Early Christianity*, 35. Mellen Biblical Press, 1995.

"Because God Heard My Voice: The Individual Thanksgiving Psalm and Vow-Fulfillment." Pp. 281-289 in *The Listening Heart: Essays in Wisdom and the Psalms in Honor of Roland E. Murphy, O. Carm.* Ed. By K. Högglund, E. Huwiler, et al. *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament, Supplement Series*, 58. Sheffield, 1987.

Other media

Three videos for “Invitation to Psalms.” United Methodist Publishing House. 2008.

Three videos for “Invitation to the Old Testament.” United Methodist Publishing House, 2005.

“Lesson 12: God Restores the People.” Video segment for *Disciple Bible* study, United Methodist Publishing House, 2005.

Dictionary articles and annotated Bibles

“Hosea”; “Joel”; “Amos”; “Obadiah”; “Jonah”; “Nahum”; “Habakkuk”; “Zephaniah”; “Haggai”; “Zechariah”; “Malachi.” *The Theological Bible Commentary*. Ed. By Gail O’Day and David Petersen. Westminster John Knox Press, forthcoming.

“Nahum,” in the *New Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible*, forthcoming.

Introduction and Notes to Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah. In *The New Oxford Annotated Bible*, fourth edition, forthcoming.

Three entries in *Feasting on the Word: Preaching from the Revised Common Lectionary*. Ed. by Barbara Brown Taylor and Tom Long. Westminster John Knox, forthcoming.

“Malachi,” in *New Interpreter’s Study Bible*. Ed. by Walter Harrelson. Abingdon Press, 2003.

“Nahum,” pp. 599-601 in *Oxford Bible Commentary*. Ed. by John Barton and John Muddiman. Oxford University Press, 2001.

“Hazzelelponi”; “Azubah2”; “Abijah1”; “Achsa”; “Hammokeketh”; “Hodesh”; “Jehudijah/Hodiah”; “Jerioth”; “Miriam2”; “Sheerah”; (2 Chr 15:13) women (and men) who don’t seek the LORD; (2 Chr 20:13, 21:14) wives of all Judah; (Mal 2:11) daughter of a foreign god; “(Mal 2:14-16) wife of one’s youth.” In *Women in Scripture: A Dictionary of Named and Unnamed Women in the Hebrew Bible, Apocrypha, and New Testament*, ed. Carol Meyers, Toni Craven, Ross Kraemer. Houghton Mifflin, 2000.

“Amos.” Pp. 648-52 in *HarperCollins Bible Commentary*. Revised edition. Ed. by James L. Mays. HarperSanFrancisco, 2000.

“Ruth, Esther, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations.” *NRSV Access Bible*. Ed. by Gail O’Day and David Petersen. Oxford University Press, 1999.

“Malachi.” Pp. 110-13 in *Dictionary of Biblical Interpretation*. Ed. by John H. Hayes. Abingdon Press, 1999.

“Biblical Literature: Hebrew Scriptures.” Pp. 319-322 in vol. 1 of *Encyclopedia of Near Eastern Archaeology*. Ed. by Eric M. Meyers. Oxford University Press, 1997.

“Malachi, book of.” Pp. 645-46 in *HarperCollins Bible Dictionary*. Revised edition. Ed. by Paul J. Achtemeier. HarperSanFrancisco, 1996.

“Adonai,” “Wadi Murabaat (texts),” “Hod,” “Imrah,” “Jehubbah,” “Pasach,” “Pispa,” “Rizia,” “Rohgah,” “Shamma,” “Shelesh,” “Shilshah,” “Shomer,” “Shua,” “Ulla,” “Zophah.” *Anchor Bible Dictionary*. Ed. by David Noel Freedman. Doubleday, 1992.

Reviews and Abstracts

20+ abstracts for *Old Testament Abstracts*

Christopher R. Seitz, *Prophecy and Hermeneutics: Toward a New Introduction to the Prophets*, in *Review of Biblical Literature*, November, 2008.

Ehud Ben Zvi, *Hosea*, in *Interpretation*, April 2007.

Rodney R. Hutton, *Fortress Introduction to the Prophets*, in *Lexington Theological Quarterly* 41 (2006): 176-177.

Rex Mason, *Micah, Nahum and Obadiah*, in *Review of Biblical Literature* 10, 2005.

John Kesler, *The Book of Haggai: Prophecy and Society in Early Persian Yehud*, in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 66 (2004): 128-129.

Reading and Hearing the Book of the Twelve, ed. James D. Nogalski and Marvin A. Sweeney, in *Review of Biblical Literature*, March 3, 2004.

Ellen F. Davis, *Getting Involved with God: Rediscovering the Old Testament*, in *Anglican Theological Review* 84 (2002): 772-774.

R. J. Coggins, *Joel and Amos*, in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 63 (2001): 714.

Odil Steck, *The Prophetic Books and their Theological Witness*, in *Review of Biblical Literature*, July 17, 2001.

Timothy K. Beal, *The Book of Hiding: Gender, Ethnicity, Annihilation and Esther*, in *Biblical Interpretation* 9 (2001): 84-85.

Philip Davies, *Scribes and Schools: The Canonization of the Hebrew Scriptures*, in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 61 (1999): 743-45.

Andrew E. Hill, *Malachi*, Anchor Bible Series, in *Interpretation* 53 (1999): 197-98.

Old Testament Interpretation: Past, Present and Future. Essays in Honor of Gene M. Tucker. Ed. by Mays, Petersen, Richards, in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 50 (1997): 198-99.

James Nogalski, *Literary Precursors to the Book of the Twelve and Redactional Processes in the Book of the Twelve*, in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*, 58 (1996): 130-31.

Terence Collins, *The Mantle of Elijah: The Redaction Criticism of the Prophetic Books*, in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 57 (1995): 343-44.

Thomas McComiskey, *The Minor Prophets: An Exegetical and Expository Commentary*, vol 1: Hosea, Joel and Amos, in *Hebrew Studies* 35 (1994): 183-86.

Stephen Tuell, *The Law of the Temple in Ezekiel 40-48*, in *Religious Studies Review* 20/2 (1994): 50.

Beyond Form Criticism, ed. Paul House, in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 56 (1994): 402-403.

Ehud Ben Zvi, A Historical-Critical Study of the Book of Zephaniah, in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 55 (1993): 321-22

Gordon Matties, *Ezekiel 18 and the Rhetoric of Moral Discourse*, in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 55 (1993): 121-22

Ilana Pardes, *Countertraditions in the Bible: A Feminist Approach*, for *IOUDAIOS* (electronic journal), December 1992.

Paul House, *The Unity of the Twelve*, in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 54/2 (1992): 322-23.

Pieter Verhoef, *Haggai and Malachi*, in *Hebrew Studies* 28 (1987): 208-210.

EDITORIAL WORK

SBL representative on the editorial board of *Teaching Theology and Religion*, published by Blackwell in cooperation with the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning, 1998-2006.

PAPERS AND INVITED LECTURES (Academic):

“To Have Without Holding: The Prophets and Biblical Authority.” Convocation address, Bangor Theological Seminary, January 2009.

“Images of God in the Prophets.” Three lectures for the Biblical Archaeology Society, June 2008.

“Violent Pictures, Violent Cultures? The Aesthetics of Violence in Contemporary Film and in Ancient Prophetic Texts.” Prophetic Texts and Ancient Contexts section, SBL Annual Meeting, Nov. 2006.

“Nahum-Habakkuk-Zephaniah: Reading the ‘Former Prophets’ in the Persian Period,” Book of the Twelve Seminar, SBL Annual Meeting, Nov. 2006.

“Who Needs the Old Testament?” Near East School of Theology, Beirut, Lebanon, January 2006.

“The Indictment of Edom in Obadiah and in Biblical Scholarship,” New Historicism Section, SBL Annual Meeting, November 2005.

Panelist on New Historicism Section, SBL Annual Meeting, 2003.

“‘Piles of dead, Heaps of Corpses’: Reading the Violence of Nahum,” Wake Forest University, October 2003.

“Ethnic Violence and the Christian Bible: Perspectives from an Age of Genocides,” Macalester College, Oct 2000.

Panelist on Composition of Book of the Twelve seminar, SBL Annual Meeting, 1999.

“On Allusions, Intertexts and the Making of Connections: Reading Jeremiah and Reading the Twelve,” Composition of the Book of Jeremiah Group, SBL Annual Meeting, 1998.

“What Happened to the Prophets? Recent Trends in Prophetic Study and the Challenge for the Church,” McCauley lecture, Lancaster Theological Seminary, May 1998

“Reading the Prophets in Historical Perspective,” 10 sessions for Biblical Archaeology Society, summer 1998. 3 sessions, May 1996

Panelist, “The Bible and Method: A Pedagogical Review,” Biblical Criticism and Literary Criticism, SBL Annual Meeting, 1996

“On Saying ‘No’ to a Prophet,” Reading, Rhetoric and the Hebrew Bible section, SBL Annual Meeting, 1995

“Biblical Heroines,” UNC Program in the Humanities, UNC-Chapel Hill, Sept. 1995

“The Quest for the Historical Israel,” 10 lectures for the Biblical Archaeology Society, 1995

Panelist, "What Can We Know About Historical Communities of Readers of Prophetic Books?" Prophets and History section, SBL Annual Meeting, 1994

"Judah as Wife and Husband: Deconstructing the Marriage Metaphor," Biblical Criticism and Literary Criticism section, SBL Annual Meeting, 1994

"Judah as Wife and Husband: Gender and the Marriage Metaphor," Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament Section, SBL, Southeastern Region, 1993

"The Seduction of the Historians: Malachi and the (Re-)Creation of History," Prophets and History Section, SBL Annual Meeting, 1991.

"Torah and Prophets: Malachi and the Date of the Priestly Code," Israelite Prophetic Literature Section, SBL Annual Meeting, 1988

"The Rîb Pattern in the Book of Malachi: A Study in the Adaptation of a Classical Gattung," SBL, Southeastern region, 1988. (Recipient of Kenneth Willis Clark Award for best student paper)

"Malachi and the Priesthood," Israelite Prophetic Literature Section, SBL Annual Meeting, 1986

CHURCH-RELATED (selected)

"Picturing God: Seeing God through the Eyes of the Prophets," Carson Lecture Series, Highland Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, PA, October 2005.

"Piles of Dead, Heaps of Corpses': Reading the Violence of the Old Testament Prophets," Yinger Lecture, Union Congregational Church in Montclair, New Jersey, January 2003

"People Who Walk in Darkness." Invited Lecturer for the Staley Distinguished Christian Scholar Lecture Program, Catawba College, Jan. 1990

"Girls and God": series of retreats for adolescent girls, Lancaster Theological Seminary

Lay Ministry training retreats

New York Conference, UCC

Tri-Penn Lay Ministry Program, UCC

Southern Conference Professional Leadership Development, UCC

Keynote speaker

Penn Southeast UCC Women's Retreat

Penn West UCC Pastor's Retreat

South Dakota UCC Conference Annual Meeting

Southern Conference UCC Women's Conference

Kansas-Oklahoma UCC Conference Annual Meeting

workshops in churches and colleges on

Reading the Bible as an Adult

Images of God in the Prophets

The Anger of God

Violence in the Bible

Nahum

Isaiah in the Advent texts of the Revised Common Lectionary

The Family in Ancient and Modern Perspectives

Women in the Biblical World

Esther and Ruth

Reading the Difficult Texts of the Bible

The Bible and Homosexuality

The OT in Contemporary Study

Calvin and the Old Testament

Bible Study leader

Penn Central UCC Annual Meeting

UCC Council of Conference Ministers

UCC Evangelism Conference

Gettysburg, PA, Ministerium, UCC

Trinity Lutheran, Lancaster, PA
 Presbytery of Carlisle, PA
 Donegal Presbytery, PA

Workshop leader

Penn Southeast Conference, UCC, women's retreat
 First Presbyterian women's retreat, Lancaster, PA
 Penn Central Conference, UCC
 Allentown, PA, area UCC churches
 Penn Southeast Conference, UCC
 Western NC Association, UCC

Christian Education and preaching at various churches (UCC, Mennonite, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Episcopalian) in NC, MD, DE, and PA

ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Chair, Dean Search Committee, Lancaster Seminary, 2005-2006

Chair, Faculty Review Committee, Lancaster Seminary, 1999-2005

Chair, Worship and Preaching Search Committee, Lancaster Seminary, 2001-02

Chair, NT Search Committee, Lancaster Seminary, 1998-99

Head, Religion Dept, Meredith College, Raleigh, NC, 1996-97

Co-leader for crosscultural experiences, Lancaster Seminary

1999: Israel, Palestinian areas, Lebanon

2006: Turkey and Lebanon