

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity Project
PLURITEXT (ANR/DFG)

The Maison des Sciences de l'Homme at the University of Lorraine (Metz) offers 18 months Postdoctoral Fellowship (with the possibility of a six-month extension) attached to the ANR-DFG Project PLURITEXT. The position will run September 1, 2017-february 28, 2019. Applicants must have completed their doctoral dissertations by September 1, 2018 on a topic related to the literature or thought of ancient Judaism and have a good knowledge of ancient Greek and Hebrew.

The successful candidate will receive a fellowship of circa 2 050 Euros net per month and will spend the 2017-2019 academic years at the University of Lorraine (Metz). The Postdoc is expected to conduct independent research related to the project PLURITEXT in her/his area of expertise. She/he is also expected to take an active role in the ANR-DFG Project PLURITEXT. She/he will be especially involved in the edition of Hebrew Text of Ben Sira in collaboration with Jan Joosten, Eric Reymond and Jean-Sébastien Rey.

Applications must include : (1) a cover letter ; (2) a curriculum vitae ; (3) a research statement detailing the work that the associate wishes to pursue at the University of Lorraine ; (4) writing samples.

These materials should be emailed to Jean-Sébastien Rey, at <mailto:jean-sebastien.rey@univ-lorraine.fr> by March 15, 2017 response will be given April 3, 2017.

The project PLURITEXT intends to conduct an in-depth methodological and hermeneutical reflection on the question of textual plurality in ancient Jewish and Samaritan Literature in Hebrew, Greek and Samaritan.

The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, in the middle of the 20th century, and of the Cairo Genizah, at the end of the 19th century, have shed new light on the question of divergent textual forms, not only for the texts that constitute the Hebrew Bible, but also for cognate ancient Jewish literature. They have proved that crucial divergences exist between textual witnesses of the Hebrew Bible. 19th century scholars addressed this problem using the concept of an alleged

Urtext, but this response is no longer satisfactory, and the question ³What is the Bible?² needs to be raised again, in the light of this fresh evidence. New models are required to accommodate textual plurality. Against the background of this research-desideratum, the present project aims at the creation and testing of scientific paradigms, which will encompass and conceptualize the phenomenon of irreducible textual plurality.

This concept of textual plurality must be understood broadly. The recognition of divergent textual traditions has numerous theological, legal, political, social and cultural implications. The analyzed material would include: (1) divergent textual witnesses from the same linguistic tradition; (2) the phenomenon of translation and the cultural transfers it entails; (3) semantic and conceptual transformation during transition from one language to another, from one socio-cultural identity to another; (4) examination of textual variants between the different witnesses, but also comparison with rabbinical and patristic traditions; (5) in-depth study of scribal practices, at the codicological level: paratextual elements, corrections, marginal notes as witnesses of an hermeneutical process in textual transmission. Obviously, the transfer of the text is closely linked to its transformation, under the influence of scribes, translators and commentators.

In addition to its clearly scientifically-oriented goal, this project aims at having a noteworthy socio-cultural impact: (1) it shows that the founding texts of Judaism and Christianity were polymorphous from the start, which raises the question of their edition; (2) the diagnosis of textual plurality as an essential concept sheds new light on claims of religious communities that these texts are normative in terms of legislative and cultural concepts, worship and identity; (3) it therefore deprives religious fundamentalism of its foundation, based on the concept of a monolithic text.