

The Swiss National Science Foundation is funding the project "The History of the Pentateuch: Combining Literary and Archaeological Approaches" for the period of 2016-2018. It is directed by Christophe Nihan (Lausanne), Thomas Römer (Lausanne), Konrad Schmid (Zürich), Israel Finkelstein (Tel Aviv), and Oded Lipschits (Tel Aviv). The relations between biblical studies, biblical history, and archaeology have always been debated, shifting between the two extremes of historical-critical exegesis and literary readings of the text.

Viewed in the 19th and early 20th century by biblical scholars as a "Hilfswissenschaft," about a century ago, archaeology started to establish the independent and autonomous discipline of "biblical archaeology." However, biblical archeology has tended to neglect the results of historical-critical biblical research. At the same time, critical biblical scholars overlooked modern analytical archaeology's potential for the study of the Bible. Both disciplines-critical biblical research and modern analytical archaeology-are distinct enterprises and need to work autonomously, but they also require substantial interaction and integration.

This disputed situation is in need of new methodological approaches. The integration of literary, historical, and archaeological approaches promises to yield new results in Pentateuchal scholarship. While manifold contributions to both the historical exegesis of the Pentateuch and to the archaeology of important places mentioned in the Pentateuch exist, current scholarship lacks comprehensive and integrative approaches. It instead features distinct scholarly projects focusing on biblical, historical, or archaeological matters. Hence, the critical combination of "realia" and "exegetica" has been insufficiently explored in relation to the Pentateuch.

This project brings together the expertise of scholars in the fields of Pentateuchal studies, archaeology, history, and historical geography, effectively comprising three subprojects: Subproject A: The Cultural and Historical World behind Genesis 25-50; Subproject B: The Historical Geography of Priestly Document and of the Priestly Literature in the Book of Numbers; and Subproject C: Sanctuaries, Cult, and Ritual in Ancient Israel and Ancient Judah. The research in the subprojects will be co-directed under the joint supervision of a Pentateuchal scholar and an archaeologist and will be conducted by doctoral students / post-docs. The research groups will meet twice a year-once in Switzerland, once in Israel.

A. In Switzerland

60-80% Doctoral or Post-Doc in the subproject, "The Cultural and Historical World behind Genesis 25-50"

60-80% Doctoral or Post-Doc in the subproject, "The Historical Geography of the Book of Numbers"

60-80% Doctoral or Post-Doc in the subproject, "Sanctuaries, Cult, and Ritual in Ancient Israel and Ancient Judah."

The positions are available either at the University of Lausanne or at the University of Zurich. For a doctoral position, qualified candidates will have a master's degree with expertise in the field of Hebrew Bible and, if possible, the archaeology of Israel. For a post-doc position, the requirement is a completed dissertation in the field of Hebrew Bible and, if possible, the archaeology of Israel.

All applications should include a CV, a publication list, and a recommendation letter.

B. In Israel

100% Doc or Post-Doc in the subproject, "The Archaeological-Historical Location(s) of the Priestly Document"

The position is available at Tel Aviv University. For a doctoral position, qualified candidates will have a master's degree with expertise in the archaeology of Israel and preferably knowledge in the field of Hebrew Bible as well. For a post-doc position, the requirement is a completed dissertation in the field of the archaeology of Israel, preferably with knowledge in the field of Hebrew Bible.

All applications should include a CV, a publication list, and a recommendation letter.

Please send applications as a single pdf file to Mr. Samuel Arnet (samuel.arnet@theol.uzh.ch). The deadline is October 15, 2015.