

JOSEPH JOHN CROSS

Seminar für Altes Testament, Geschichte Israels in der altorientalischen Welt
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EDUCATION

- 2022 Ph.D., Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago
Advisors: Robert Ritner, Dennis Pardee
Dissertation: “The Poetics of Plot in the Egyptian and Judean Novella”
Dissertation committee: Brian Muhs, Jacqueline Jay, Simeon Chavel, Dennis Pardee
- 2014 M.A., Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago
- 2011 M.A., Theology
University of Dallas
- 2006 B.A., Classics
University of Texas at Austin

POSITIONS

- 2022- Postdoctoral researcher, ERC Advanced Grant project “From Texts to Literature:
Demotic Egyptian Papyri and the Formation of the Hebrew Bible” (DEMBIB)
Theologische Fakultät, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

TEACHING

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Magic in Text and Archaeology (Fall 2024-25)

University of North Carolina Asheville
The Ancient World (Fall 2018, 2020, Spring 2019-20, Maymester 2019) – primary source-based
survey on religion, literature, and culture of ancient societies across the world that is thematically
oriented (e.g. creation stories, gender and sexuality, happiness and society)
Latin I-II (Fall 2018-Spring 19)
Ancient Egyptian Magic and Medicine (Fall 2018)

University of Chicago
Middle Egyptian Texts II (masters and doctoral), Fall 2015

Teaching assistantships:

Ancient Empires: Egypt (undergraduate), Spring 2016 – history of New Kingdom Egypt with emphasis on cultural history and primary sources

Intro to the Hebrew Bible (masters), Fall 2014

Intermediate Hebrew I (masters and doctoral), Fall 2014

Intro to Middle Egyptian I-II (undergraduate, doctoral), Fall 2013-Winter 2014

The Bible and Western Culture (undergraduate), Fall 2013

Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, University of Chicago

Adult education courses:

Jewish Scripts Through History, online, August 2020

History through OI Objects: The Megiddo Gallery, online, May 2020

The World of the Hebrew Bible, hybrid and online, 2015-18

Writing Program, University of Chicago

Undergraduate Writing Intern, 2016-18

Undergraduate Writing Tutor, 2016-17

Pedagogies of Writing Seminar Leader, Summer 2017

EDITED BOOKS

Contracted *The Routledge Handbook of Ancient Egypt and the Hebrew Bible*, with Bernd U. Schipper and Robert Kade, in preparation for submission in Fall 2024

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

2023 “*Mouvance* and the Art of Fiction in Performance in Manuscripts of a Demotic Novella,” *Manuscript and Text Cultures* 2:2, pp.168–200

In press “Appearance and Reality in Setna’s Dialogue with ‘Pharaoh’ in First Setna 5.31-35,” in Aurore Motte and Victoria Almansa-Villatoro, eds., *(Im-)Politeness in Ancient Egyptian Texts* (Brill, Studies in Pragmatics)

Forthcoming “The Corpus of Northwest Semitic Texts in Egyptian Script,” in Susan Hollis, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Ancient Egypt and the Hebrew Bible*

ARTICLES IN PREPARATION

with Jacqueline E. Jay, “Demotic Narrative Literature and the Hebrew Bible,” in Cross, Kade, and Schipper, eds., *The Routledge Handbook of Ancient Egypt and the Hebrew Bible*

“Egyptian Magic and the Hebrew Bible,” in Cross, Kade, and Schipper, eds., *The Routledge Handbook of Ancient Egypt and the Hebrew Bible*

“The Book of Esther as Novella,” in Helge Bezold and Kristin Joachimsen, eds., *Esther: Themes and Issues* (Equinox Themes and Issues in Biblical Studies)

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

- 2022 “The Teaching of Amenemope,” in *Global Humanities Reader: Engaging Ancient Worlds and Perspectives*, ed. Brian S. Hook, Sophie Mills, Katherine C. Zubko, Keya Maitra, pp. 77-79
- 2022 “Egyptian Love Poetry,” in *Global Humanities Reader: Engaging Ancient Worlds and Perspectives*, ed. Brian S. Hook, Sophie Mills, Katherine C. Zubko, Keya Maitra, pp. 98-100
- 2022 “The Epic of Gilgamesh,” in *Global Humanities Reader: Engaging Ancient Worlds and Perspectives*, ed. Brian S. Hook, Sophie Mills, Katherine C. Zubko, Keya Maitra, pp. 236-238
- 2017 “Missing Pages: Two Manuscripts of the Samaritan Torah in the Oriental Institute,” *Oriental Institute News & Notes* 242, pp. 6-15

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2020 Claudia Suhr, *Die ägyptische "Ich-Erzählung": eine narratologische Untersuchung, Review of Biblical Literature*

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2016-22 Cross/Rantz Fellowship, 2016-2022
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago
- 2018-19 Jacob Greenberg Memorial Dissertation Year Fellowship
Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies, University of Chicago
- 2017 Karen Dinal Memorial Award for teaching undergraduate writing
The College, University of Chicago
- 2011-15 Graduate Fellowship, 2011-2015.
Division of the Humanities, University of Chicago

PAPERS AND LECTURES

- 2024 with José Rafael Saade, “‘Gardener, do your work!’: Egypt and the Persian Paradise.” Invited paper for session “Symbolic Spaces Associated with Paradise” to be delivered at the European Association of Biblical Studies Annual Meeting, July 16th
- 2023 “Philology as Leisure in the Book of Ruth.” Paper delivered at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Nov. 11th-21st
- 2023 “Are All Texts Rivers? The Ending of MT Esther and the Multitextuality of Prose Fiction in the Hellenistic Period.” Paper delivered at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Nov. 11th-21st
- 2023 with José Rafael Saade, “Egypt as Garden in the (Post-)Achaemenid Conceptualization of Space and History.” Paper delivered at the European Association of Biblical Studies

Annual Meeting, July 12th

- 2023 “Rethinking the Ending of Esther in Light of Demotic Egyptian Papyri.” Invited paper delivered at the Tagung der Fachgruppe für Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft, Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft für Theologie, Berlin, March 4th
- 2022 “A ‘véritable cycle romanesque?’ The Relationship between P. Krall and P. Spiegelberg Reconsidered.” Paper delivered at the 14th International Demotic Congress, Heidelberg, Sept. 6th
- 2022 “Egyptian Scribes Writing Northwest Semitic.” Invited lecture delivered at the Lehrstuhl “Geschichte Israels in der altorientalischen Welt,” Theologische Fakultät, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, July 28th
- 2021 “Group Writing as Text-Making Technique.” Paper delivered at the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities Scholars’ Colloquium, Online, Nov. 5th
- 2021 Respondent to a paper by Sunwoo Lee, “Pain in Egyptian Literary Narratives,” given in the Affect and the Emotions Workshop, University of Chicago, April 7th
- 2021 “*Mouvance* and the Storyteller’s Art in Manuscripts of a Demotic Novella.” Paper delivered at the Early Text Cultures reading group (Oxford), “Writing Orality” Series, Online, Feb. 18th
- 2020 “The Visual Possibilities of Narrative in the Demotic *Battle for the Prebend of Amun*.” Paper delivered at the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities Scholars’ Colloquium, Online, Nov 6th-8th
- 2020 “Finding God in Nineveh: A Case Study in Judean and Egyptian Prophetic Imagination.” Invited paper delivered at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Online Nov. 21st-24th
- 2020 “When Storytelling Becomes Canonical: Changing Fortunes of the Novella in Hellenistic and Roman Judea and Egypt.” Paper delivered at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Online, Nov. 21st-24th
- 2020 “Between the Cosmopolitan and the Vernacular: Private Literature in the Post-Iron Age Southeastern Mediterranean.” Paper delivered online American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting, Online, Nov. 18th-21st
- 2020 “Genre Matters: Jonah as Novella.” Paper delivered at the Southeastern Commission on the Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Feb. 28th-Mar. 1st
- 2019 “Books without Authors: Who Wrote (and Read) the First Novels?” Lecture given at the Brown Bag Lecture series, Ramsey Library, University of North Carolina Asheville, February 14th
- 2018 “‘Suit the action to the word, the word to the action’: A New Reading of a Northwest Semitic Incantation in Egyptian Script (P. BM 10042, col. XII).” Paper delivered at the

American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting, Nov. 14th-17th

- 2018 “Envisioning a Compiler at Work: Scribal Features of Papyrus Amherst 63.” Paper delivered at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Nov. 18th
- 2018 “Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible: A Manuscript-Based Overview.” Lecture given at the Critical Editions for Digital Analysis and Research Symposium, University of Chicago, May 4th
- 2011 “‘The Earth from Which He Was Taken’: The Shift of Speaker in Genesis 3:22-23.” Paper delivered at the Southwestern Conference on Religious Studies Annual Meeting, March 5th

CONFERENCES ACTIVITY

Conferences Organized

- 2024 Demotic Literature and the Dead Sea Scrolls, organized by the DEMBIB project, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, May 13th-15th
- 2018 with Carl Bryant Shook, Middle Eastern History and Theory Conference, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Chicago, May 4th-5th

Panels Organized

- 2025 Trauma, Archive, and Literature in the Persian and Hellenistic Periods. 25th Congress of the International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament, Berlin, August 11th-15th
- 2025 Review panel of the “scroll approach” of David Carr. 25th Congress of the International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament, Berlin, August 11th-15th
- 2025 Alexander and Indigenous Literature. 25th Congress of the International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament, Berlin, August 11th-15th

Discussant

- 2018 “Digital Humanities and Middle Eastern Studies” Panel at the Middle Eastern History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago, May 5th
- 2018 “Which Way Forward: Digital Humanities and Middle Eastern Studies” Roundtable. Middle Eastern History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago, May 4th

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2014-18 Entry editor, Chicago Demotic Dictionary, Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures (formerly the Oriental Institute), University of Chicago

2017-18 Database editor, Critical Editions for Digital Analysis and Research (CEDAR), OCHRE Data Systems, Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, University of Chicago

Research assistantships

Daniel Schwartz, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (visiting scholar in the Jewish Studies Program, University of Chicago), 2017

Steve Vinson, Indiana University at Bloomington, 2016-17

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2023- Peer reviewer, Scandinavian Journal of the Old Testament

2021- Advisory board member for working group “Comparing Ancient Chronographic Historiographies from Mesopotamia, Egypt, Judah, and Greece in the Persian and Early Hellenistic Periods,” European Association for Biblical Studies Research Group

2015-20 Public outreach and content specialist, Museum of the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures (formerly the Oriental Institute), University of Chicago

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2020 Cohort member, First Year Pilot Program, University of North Carolina Asheville

2017-18 Coordinator, Hebrew Bible Workshop, University of Chicago

2015-16 Graduate Student Advisory Committee, Museum of the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, University of Chicago

INVITED PARTICIPATION

2018 “Digital Editions, Digital Corpora, and New Possibilities for the Humanities in the Academy and Beyond,” a 2018 NEH Institute for Advanced Technology in the Digital Humanities, Perseus Project, Tufts University, July 16th-27th

2018 Chicago-Yale Pentateuch Colloquium, Yale Divinity School, Feb. 25th-27th

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

2021 “Literature in Ancient Egyptian Society.” Online talk given for the Oriental Institute Literature Workshop, February 13th

2020 “Who Are the Samaritans?” Online talk given for the Oriental Institute Sunday Seminar, August 16th

2020 “Biblical Hebrew.” Online talk given for the Oriental Institute Language Seminar, May 31st

2020 “Judean and Egyptian Novellas of the Achaemenid and Hellenistic Periods.” Online lecture delivered for the Oriental Institute Members’ Lecture series, April 8th

- 2018 “Science and Technology of Writing in Ancient Egypt.” Lecture given at the Teacher Cohort Academy, Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, July 11th
- 2017 “Art and Architecture of Ancient Egypt.” Talk given for the Oriental Institute Public Scholars program, Homewood Public Library, Homewood IL, June 20th
- 2017 “The First Biblical Manuscripts.” Gallery talk given for the Oriental Institute Gallery Talk series, May 5th
- 2017 “Building the Pyramids.” Talk given for the Oriental Institute Public Scholars program, Itasca Public Library, Itasca IL, February 16th
- 2016 “Medicine and Magic of Ancient Egypt.” Talk given for the Oriental Institute Public Scholars program, Acorn Public Library, Oak Forest IL, November 11th
- 2016 “What Can Ancient Egypt Tell Us About the Bible?” Talk given at the Oriental Institute Volunteer’s Day, March 14th
- 2016 “Ancient Israel Outside the Bible.” Talk given for the Oriental Institute Gallery Talk series, March 3rd

ANCIENT LANGUAGES

Aramaic (Old, Biblical, Imperial)

Coptic

Egyptian (all phases)

Greek

Hebrew

Latin

Phoenician/Punic

Ugaritic