

JAMES NATI
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Appointments

- 2019- **Santa Clara University – Jesuit School of Theology**
Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible & Early Judaism
Core Doctoral Faculty Member at the Graduate Theological Union
Affiliated Faculty Member at the Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies
Affiliated Faculty Member in the Graduate Group in Ancient History and
Mediterranean Archaeology (AHMA) at UC Berkeley
- 2022 (Fall) **University of Michigan**
Visiting Scholar in the Middle East Studies Department

Education

- 2019 **Yale University**
Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible/Old Testament (with Distinction)
Directors: John J. Collins & Hindy Najman
Committee Members: Steven Fraade & Joel Baden
Dissertation Title: Textual Criticism and the Rules from Qumran
- 2017 **University of Oxford**
Recognised Student in the Faculty of Theology and Religion
Visiting Doctoral Student at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies
- 2013 **Yale Divinity School**
M.A.R. in Second Temple Judaism
- 2011 **University of Michigan – Ann Arbor**
B.A. in Ancient Civilizations & Biblical Studies (High Distinction, Highest Honors, Phi Beta Kappa)

Publications

Books

- 2024 *The Rule of the Association and Related Texts* (with John J. Collins; The Oxford Commentary on the Dead Sea Scrolls Series; Oxford University Press, 2024)

- 2022 *Textual Criticism and the Ontology of Literature in Early Judaism: An Analysis of the Serekh ha-Yahad* (JSJSupp 198; Leiden: Brill, 2022)
Reviews: *Religious Studies Review* 48 (2022): 582-583; *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 85 (2023): 344-346; *JSOT* 47.5 (2023): 161-162; *Revue Biblique* 130 (2023): 623-626; *Revue de Qumran* 35 (2023): 312-316; *Dead Sea Discoveries* 31 (2024): 247-249; *Vetus Testamentum* 74 (2024).

Edited Volumes

- 2022 “Ancient Hebrew Literature Beyond ‘The Bible’: Part Two.” *Metatron* 1.2 (2022).
 Edited with Seth L. Sanders.
- 2021 “Ancient Hebrew Literature Beyond ‘The Bible’: Part One.” *Metatron* 1.1 (2021).
 Edited with Seth L. Sanders.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Forthcoming “Truth and Writing in Daniel: Memories of Persian Media” (with Laura Carlson Hasler), forthcoming in the *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures*.
- 2024 “Prophetic Authority and Scribal Anxiety in the Late Second Temple Period,” *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 86 (2024): 722-745.
- 2024 “What Did Jacob Read at Bethel?: Scrolls and Scripture in Jubilees 32:21-26,” *Journal of Ancient Judaism* 15 (2024): 98-119
- 2023 “New Readings in 11Q29,” *Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha* 33 (2023): 134-139.
- 2023 “The Book of Jubilees and/as Commentary: A Review Essay of James C. VanderKam, *Jubilees: A Commentary on the Book of Jubilees*,” *Revue de Qumran* 35 (2023): 133-148.
- 2021 “‘As for the Doer of His Will, May They Ascend as a Fine Fragrance’: A Note on Jubilees 2:22,” *Journal of Ancient Judaism* 12 (2021): 175-184.
- 2020 “The Rolling Corpus: Materiality and Pluriformity at Qumran, with Special Consideration of the *Serekh ha-Yahad*,” *Dead Sea Discoveries* 27 (2020): 161-201.
- 2018 “New Readings in 4Q256 (4QS^b),” *Revue de Qumran* 30 (2018): 69-77.

2017 “New Readings in 4Q118 i (4QChronicles) and a Parallel at 4Q381 31 (4QNon-Canonical Psalms B),” *Revue de Qumran* 29 (2017): 129-38.

Articles in Edited Volumes

2019 “On 'True' Editions: Pluriformity and Authority Between Psalms and Serekh,” in *Scribal Practice, Text and Canon in the Dead Sea Scrolls: Essays in Memory of Peter W. Flint* (Eds. J. J. Collins & A. Geysler-Fouche; STDJ 130; Leiden: Brill, 2019), 90-107.

2018 “Solomon, the Septuagint, and Second Temple Studies,” in *A Genius for Mentorship: A Forum in Honor of Ben Wright on his 65th Birthday* (Eds. F. Borchardt & E. Mroczek; Edited Forum Hosted by *Ancient Jew Review* [<http://www.ancientjewreview.com/articles/2018/1/9/a-genius-for-mentorship-a-forum-in-honor-of-ben-wright-on-his-65th-birthday/>], 2018).

2016 “Unities and Boundaries Across the Jeremianic Dead Sea Scrolls. A Response to Eibert Tigchelaar” in *Jeremiah's Scriptures: Production, Reception, Interaction, Transformation* (Eds. H. Najman & K. Schmid; JSJSup 173; Leiden: Brill, 2016), 327-29.

2016 “Compositional Technique in the Temple Scroll: Creative Interpretation and Integrative Interpretation in the Passover Legislation,” in *New Vistas on Early Judaism and Christianity: From Enoch to Montréal and Back* (Eds. L. DiTommaso & G. S. Oegema; JCTCRS 22; London: T&T Clark, 2016), 112-30.

2016 “*The Community Rule or Rules for the Communities?: Contextualizing the Qumran Serakhim*” in *Sibyls, Scriptures, and Scrolls: John Collins at Seventy* (Eds. J. Baden, H. Najman & E. Tigchelaar; JSJSup 175; Leiden: Brill, 2016), 916-39.

Book Reviews

In Progress “Review of Kamilla Skarström Hinojosa, *Serek Ha-Yahad (1QS) in Dialogue with Mimetic Theory: Scapegoat Mechanisms Unveiled*,” *Revue de Qumran*.

2024 “Review of Charlotte Hempel, *The Community Rules from Qumran: A Commentary*,” *Review of Biblical Literature*.

2024 “Review of Hanna Vanonen, *War Traditions from the Qumran Caves: Rethinking Textual Stability and Fluidity in the War Text Manuscripts*,” *Dead Sea Discoveries* 31 (2024): 226-228.

2024 “Review of Michael Stone, *Armenian Apocrypha from Adam to Daniel*,” *Catholic*

Biblical Quarterly 86 (2024): 162-164.

- 2021 "Review of Sarianna Metso, *The Community Rule: A Critical Edition with Translation*," *Dead Sea Discoveries* 28 (2021): 262-264.
- 2020 "Review of Pieter B. Hartog, *Peshet and Hypomnema: A Comparison of Two Commentary Traditions from the Hellenistic-Roman Period*," *Revue de Qumran* 32 (2020): 298-300.
- 2020 "Review of Binyamin Y. Goldstein, Michael Segal, and George J. Brooke, eds., *Hā-ʾîsh Mōshe: Studies in Scriptural Interpretation in the Dead Sea Scrolls and Related Literature in Honor of Moshe J. Bernstein*," *Dead Sea Discoveries* 27 (2020): 308-310.
- 2019 "Book Note on John Barton, *Ethics in Ancient Israel*," published at *Ancient Jew Review* (<https://www.ancientjewreview.com/articles/2019/11/18/book-note-ethics-in-ancient-israel>).
- 2018 "Review of Emanuel Tov, Kipp Davis, and Robert Duke, eds., *Dead Sea Scrolls Fragments in the Museum Collection*," *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* 42.5 (2018): 247.
- 2017 "Review of Kipp Davis, *The Cave 4 Apocryphon of Jeremiah and the Qumran Jeremianic Traditions: Prophetic Persona and the Construction of Community Identity*," *Dead Sea Discoveries* 24 (2017): 316-18.
- 2016 "Review of Mika S. Pajunen, *The Land to the Elect and Justice for All: Reading Psalms in the Dead Sea Scrolls in Light of 4Q381*," *Revue de Qumran* 28 (2016): 295-97.

Reference Entries

- Forthcoming "Jacob," in *Brill's Encyclopedia of the Dead Sea Scrolls* (eds. S. White Crawford, et al.; Leiden: Brill, forthcoming).
- 2017 "Laban (Second Temple and Hellenistic Judaism)"; "Lysias"; "Maapha"; "Macron" in *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (eds. C. Helmer, et al.; 30 vols.; Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2009-).
- 2016 "יָדָע," in *Theologisches Wörterbuch zu den Qumrantexten* (eds. H.-J. Fabry and U. Dahmen; 3 vols.; Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 2011-2016).

Popular Publications

2023

“But they Maintain the Fabric of the World’ (Sir 38:34): Wisdom and the Dignity of Work in the Book of Sirach,” *explore Journal* 23 (2023): 23-27.

Courses Taught

Methods: Pentateuch & Histories (2019, 2020, 2023, 2024)

The Book of Daniel: Court Tales & Visions (2019, 2020, 2021)

Advanced Biblical Hebrew (Special Reading Course, 2019)

Wisdom in Ancient Israel (2020, 2022, 2023)

Second Temple Judaism (2020)

Genesis Through Ancient and Modern Eyes (Special Reading Course, 2020)

Writing, Truth, and Presence in Early Judaism (Special Reading Course, 2020)

Intermediate Biblical Hebrew (2021, 2024)

The Dead Sea Scrolls (2022, 2024)

What is Scripture? (2023)

How to Read the Book of Job(?) (2023)

Wisdom, Wonder, Creation (2025)

Aramaic Readings (Special Reading Course, 2025)

Conference Presentations

2024

“Review of Robert S. Kawashima, *The Archaeology of Ancient Israelite Knowledge*” (Review panel presentation delivered at the SBL Annual Meeting; San Diego, CA; Nov 23-26, 2024)

2024

“Wonder as a Response to the Cry of the Earth: Insights from Scripture” (with Frank Kuwornu; Paper presented at the JST-SCU Laudato Si’ Symposium; Berkeley, CA; October 2, 2024)

2024

“The Beginning of Scripture: Writing, Truth, and Presence in Early Judaism” (Paper presented at Texts and Imaginations: A West Coast Jewish & Christian Antiquity Workshop; Davis, CA; March 3-4, 2024)

2023

“4Q259/4Q319: A Material-Philological Reading” (Paper presented at the SBL Annual Meeting; San Antonio, TX; November 18-21, 2023)

2023

“Toward a Biblical Philology of Wonder: The Case of Samson’s Birth” (Paper presented in the Hebrew Bible Lecture Series at Yale Divinity School; October 26, 2023).

2023

“Truth and Writing in Daniel: Memories of Persian Media” (Paper presented at the EABS Annual Meeting; Siracusa; July 10-13, 2023).

- 2023 “The Materiality of Writing and the Self in *Jubilees* and the Dead Sea Scrolls” (Paper presented at the GTU Center for Jewish Studies Annual Conference on ‘Worlds of Corporeality’; March 8, 2023).
- 2023 “Samson’s Birth Story, Wonderfully: A Philological Experiment on Judges 13” (Paper presented in the Birmingham Biblical Studies Seminar; March 8, 2023).
- 2022 “Scripture in the Scrolls: Representation and Presentification in the Qumran Pesharim” (Paper presented at the SBL Annual Meeting; Program Unit: Deuteronomistic History; Denver, CO; November 19-22, 2022).
- 2022 “Understanding 4QNarrative and Poetic Composition (4Q371-373a) in Light of Jacob's Vision in Jubilees 32” (Paper presented at the Eleventh Meeting of the International Organization for Qumran Studies; Zürich, Switzerland; Aug 8-11, 2022)
- 2022 “Prophetic Authority and Scribal Anxiety in the Late Second Temple Period” (Paper presented in the Divinity in Ancient Israel Seminar at the Catholic Biblical Association Annual Meeting; Santa Clara, CA; July 30-Aug 2, 2022)
- 2022 “Subjectivity, Scribal Practice, and the Role of the Textual Scholar” (Roundtable seminar at the Society for Textual Scholarship Annual Conference; Chicago, IL; May 26-28, 2022)
- 2022 “What Were Biblical Books? Mapping the Ontology of Literature in Early Judaism” (Paper presented at the Society for Textual Scholarship Annual Conference; Chicago, IL; May 26-28, 2022)
- 2021 (withdrawn) “Writing Like Jacob: Transmitting Divine Knowledge in the Book of *Jubilees* and at Qumran” (Paper accepted for the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference; Chicago, IL; December 19-21, 2021)
- 2021 “Does the Book of *Jubilees* Evince a Hierarchy of Writing Materials?” (Paper presented at the SBL Annual Meeting; Program Unit: Book History & Biblical Literatures; San Antonio, TX; November 20, 2021)
- 2020 “Varieties of Writing, Truth, and Power in the Book of Daniel” (Co-authored with Laura Carlson Hasler; Paper presented at the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference; December 16, 2020)
- 2020 “The Qumran Rule Texts and the Ontology of Literature in Early Judaism” (Paper presented at the SBL Virtual Annual Meeting; Program Unit: Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible; December 10, 2020)

- 2020 “Were All Texts Meant to be Transmitted?: The Three Vices Tradition in Early Judaism” (Paper presented at *Literary Creativity and Forgetting*, an online panel organized through the BRANE collective; October 8, 2020)
- 2019 “‘May the Doer of His Will Ascend as a Fine Fragrance’ (*Jub. 2:22*): God’s רצון in the Second Temple Period” (Paper presented at the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference; San Diego, CA; December 15-17, 2019)
- 2019 “What Was the *Aramaic Levi Document*?” (Paper presented at the Ancient Judaism Regional Seminar; New Haven, CT; March 31-April 1, 2019)
- 2018 “Law and Truth in the *Serekh ha-Yahad*” (Paper presented at the Ancient Judaism Regional Seminar; Princeton, NJ; April 29-30, 2018)
- 2017 “Ontologies of Biblical Literature Between Scribalism and Criticism” (Paper presented at the SBL Annual Meeting; Program Unit: Philology in Hebrew Studies; Boston, MA; November 18-21, 2017)
- 2017 “Non-Biblical Evidence for a Biblical Conundrum: Plurality and the Ontology of Literature in the *Serakhim*, *Ezra*, and *1 Esdras*” (Paper presented at *Textual Plurality Beyond the Biblical Texts*; Metz, France; October 17-19, 2017)
- 2017 “‘And He (Did Not) Let Him Know the Completion of the Era’: Prophetic Authority and Scribal Anxiety in the *Pesher Habakkuk* from Qumran” (Paper presented at *Between Heaven and Earth: Divination, Prophecy, and Oracles in the Ancient World*; New Haven, CT; April 20-21, 2017)
- 2017 “Materiality, Reading, and Revelation: The Case of the Qumran Opisthographs” (Paper presented at the Regional Seminar in Ancient Judaism; New York, NY; March 5-6, 2017)
- 2016 “The *Aramaic Levi Document* and the Limits of Philology” (Paper presented at the SBL Annual Meeting; Program Unit: Philology in Hebrew Studies; San Antonio, TX; November 19, 2016)
- 2016 “Does 4QChronicles (4Q118) Contain a Non-Canonical Psalm?” (Paper presented at the Ninth Meeting of the International Organization for Qumran Studies; Leuven, Belgium; July 17-20, 2016)
- 2016 “The Dead Sea Scrolls and Textual Criticism: New Perspectives” (Paper presented in the Lightning Round at the Ancient Judaism Regional Seminar; Philadelphia, PA; March 6-7, 2016)

- 2015 "The Aramaic Levi Document at Qumran" (Poster presented at *Manusciences '15 Franco-German Summer School. Manuscripts: From Fragments to Books – From Identification to Interpretation*; Frauenchiemsee, Germany; September 6-12, 2015)
- 2014 "Wisdom, Shared History, and Subcultural Formation in the *Damascus Document*" (Paper presented at *Rethinking the Boundaries of Sapiential Traditions in Ancient Judaism*; Metz, France; October, 2014)
- 2014 "Response to Eibert Tigchelaar, 'Jeremiah's Scriptures in the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Growth of a Tradition'" (Paper presented at *Jeremiah's Scriptures: Production, Reception, Interaction, Transformation*; Ascona, Switzerland; June, 2014)
- 2014 "Compositional Technique in the *Temple Scroll*: Creative Interpretation and Integrative Interpretation in the Passover Legislation" (Paper presented at the Enoch Graduate Seminar; Montreal, Quebec; May, 2014)
- 2014 "Heavenly Ascent for Philo's 'Friends of God' and the Qumran Sectarians" (Paper presented at *Philo and His Readers*; New Haven, CT; March, 2014)

Research Languages

Hebrew

- Biblical (Excellent)
- Qumran (Excellent)
- Mishnaic (Fair)

Greek

- Koine (Good)

Aramaic

- Biblical (Excellent)
- Qumran (Excellent)
- Syriac (Good)

Ethiopic (Excellent)

- German (Good)
- French (Fair)
- Spanish (Good)

Professional Organizations

- Association for Jewish Studies
- Catholic Biblical Association

