

CURRICULUM VITAE

Joseph C. Lam

Department of Religious Studies
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. (2012) with Honors, University of Chicago (Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations)
M.A. (2005), University of Chicago (Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations)
M.Div. (2003), Regent College (Old Testament)
B.A.Sc. (1999) with Distinction, University of British Columbia (Engineering Physics)

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies, 2020–present

Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, 2014–2020

Lecturer, Department of Religious Studies, 2011–2014

North Carolina State University

Teaching Assistant Professor, Department of History, Fall 2012

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Associate Lecturer, Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies, 2010–2011

University of Chicago

Lecturer, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, 2007–2008

Regent College

Sessional Lecturer, Summer 2004, Summer 2005

PUBLICATIONS

(Note: all works are sole-authored unless explicitly indicated.)

Books (authored):

2016 *Patterns of Sin in the Hebrew Bible: Metaphor, Culture, and the Making of a Religious Concept*. New York: Oxford University Press.

- Reviews: Y. Feder, *Journal of Religion* 98 (2018): 579–581; B. A. Anderson, *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* 42.5 (2018), 191–192; T. Mayfield, *Religious Studies Review* 44.2 (2018), 218; G. Carey, *Theology Today* 75.1 (2018): 114–115; L. DiFransico, *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 80 (2018):

123–125; M. E. Biddle, *Interpretation* 72 (2018): 79–80; L. M. Morales, *Journal of Theological Studies* 68.1 (2017): 234–236; C. Thomson, *Themelios* 42 (2017): 153–154; S. Schweitzer, *Reading Religion*, April 2017 [<http://readingreligion.org>]; R. Bonfiglio, *Review of Biblical Literature* (03/2017) [<http://bookreviews.org>]; C. Imes, *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 26 (2016), 573–574.

- Was the subject of a review panel at the 2016 SBL Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX (organized by the Metaphor Theory and the Hebrew Bible section).

Books (co-edited):

in press (Hardy, H. H. II, Joseph Lam, and Eric D. Reymond, eds.) *“Like ‘Ilu, Are You Wise”:* *Studies in Northwest Semitic Languages and Literatures in Honor of Dennis G. Pardee.* *Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization* 74. Chicago: The Oriental Institute.

Refereed journal articles:

- 2020 “On the Etymology of Biblical Hebrew נִסְחָה : A Contribution to the ‘Sin Offering’ vs. ‘Purification Offering’ Debate.” *Journal of Semitic Studies* 65: 325–346.
- 2019 “Metaphor in the Ugaritic Literary Texts.” *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 78: 37–57.
- 2018 “The Concept of Sin in the Hebrew Bible.” *Religion Compass* 12: e12260 [<https://doi.org/10.1111/rec3.12260>]
- 2014 “Psalm 2 and the Disinheritance of Earthly Rulers: New Light from the Ugaritic Legal Text RS 94.2168.” *Vetus Testamentum* 64: 34–46.
- 2011 “A Reassessment of the Alphabetic Hurrian Text RS 1.004 (KTU 1.42): A Ritual Anointing of Deities?” *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions* 11: 148–169.

Book chapters, entries in reference works, and other articles (* indicates external peer review):

- subm. “Grief and Sadness in Ugaritic Texts.” In *Handbook of Emotions in the Ancient Near East*, ed. Karen Sonik and Ulrike Steinert. Routledge.
- in press “Food in Canaanite Myth.” In *Handbook to Food in the Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel*, ed. Janling Fu, Cynthia Shafer-Elliott, and Carol Meyers. Bloomsbury/T&T Clark.
- in press * “The Biblical Hebrew Root *bhl* in Light of New Ugaritic Evidence.” In *“Like ‘Ilu, Are You Wise”:* *Studies in Semitic Languages and Literatures in Honor of Dennis G. Pardee*, ed. H. H. Hardy II, Joseph Lam, and Eric D. Reymond. SAOC 74. Chicago: The Oriental Institute.
- in press * “Linguistic and Philosophical Insights on Metaphor in Biblical Hebrew.” In *Linguistic Method and Theory and the Languages of the Ancient Near East*, ed. Andréas Stauder and Christopher Woods. Chicago: The Oriental Institute.
- 2020 “Visualizing ‘Death’ (Môtu) in the Ugaritic Texts.” In *Researching Metaphor in the Ancient Near East*, ed. Marta Pallavidini and Ludovico Portuese, 53–68. Philippika 141. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag.

- 2019 “The Meaning of *mât* in KTU 1.14 I:38 (Kirta): A Review of Previous Solutions and a New Proposal.” *Ugarit-Forschungen* 50: 179–191.
- 2016 (Lam, Joseph, and Dennis Pardee.) “Standard/Classical Biblical Hebrew.” In *A Handbook of Biblical Hebrew*, 2 vols., ed. W. Randall Garr and Steven Fassberg, I:1–18, II:1–4. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns.
- 2015 * “Possible Ugaritic Influences on the Hurrian of Ras Shamra-Ugarit in Alphabetic Script.” In *Semitic Languages in Contact*, ed. Aaron Butts, 267–279. *Studies in Semitic Languages and Linguistics*. Leiden: Brill.
- 2012 (Lam, Joseph, and Dennis Pardee.) “Diachrony in Ugaritic.” In *Diachrony in Biblical Hebrew*, ed. Cynthia Miller-Naudé and Ziony Zevit, 407–431. *Linguistic Studies in Ancient West Semitic* 8. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns.
- 2011 “Middle Bronze Age in Syria-Palestine,” “The Amorites (sidebar),” “Near Eastern Myths of a Deluge,” and “The Flood Story in the Gilgamesh Epic (sidebar).” In *World History Encyclopedia, Era 2: Early Civilizations, 4000–1000 BCE*, ed. K. M. McGeough, 575–577, 593–594. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO.
- 2010 * “The Invention and Development of the Alphabet.” In *Visible Language: Inventions of Writing in the Ancient Middle East and Beyond*, ed. Christopher Woods, 189–195. *Oriental Institute Museum Publications* 32. Chicago: The Oriental Institute.
- 2006 “The Hurrian Section of the Ugaritic Ritual Text RS 24.643 (KTU 1.148).” *Ugarit-Forschungen* 38: 399–413.

Book reviews:

- 2020 Review of *The Private Archives of Ugarit: A Functional Analysis*, by Gregorio del Olmo Lete, *Review of Biblical Literature* (08/2020) [<https://www.bookreviews.org/BookDetail.asp?TitleId=13026>].
- 2020 Review of *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar*, 3rd edition, by Gary D. Pratico and Miles V. Van Pelt, *Review of Biblical Literature* (01/2020) [<https://www.bookreviews.org/BookDetail.asp?TitleId=12917>].
- 2019 Review of *Sensing World, Sensing Wisdom: The Cognitive Foundation of Biblical Metaphors*, by Nicole L. Tilford. *Biblical Interpretation* 27: 586–588.
- 2019 Review of *Washing Away Sin: An Analysis of the Metaphor in the Hebrew Bible and Its Influence*, by Lesley R. DiFransico. *AJS Review* 43: 195–197.
- 2015 Review of *An Introduction to Ugaritic*, by John Huehnergard. *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 135: 882–884.
- 2015 Review of *Puzzling Out the Past: Studies in Northwest Semitic Languages and Literatures in Honor of Bruce Zuckerman*, ed. Marilyn J. Lundberg, Steven Fine, and Wayne T. Pitard. *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 135: 380–382.

- 2014 Review of *Sinning in the Hebrew Bible: How The Worst Stories Speak for Its Truth*, by Alan F. Segal. *Review of Biblical Literature* (08/2014)
[<http://www.bookreviews.org/bookdetail.asp?TitleId=8879>].
- 2013 Review of *The Composition of the Pentateuch: Renewing the Documentary Hypothesis*, by Joel S. Baden. *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 72: 306–309.
- 2012 Review of *The Early Monarchy in Israel: The Tenth Century B.C.E.*, by Walter Dietrich. *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 71: 355–356.
- 2010 Review of *Sin: A History*, by Gary A. Anderson. *Review of Biblical Literature* (09/2010)
[<http://www.bookreviews.org/bookdetail.asp?TitleId=7556>].

Popular publications:

- 2016 “Sin as Rhetoric in the Hebrew Bible: The Framing Power of Metaphor.” The Bible & Interpretation website, accessed June 1, 2016.
[<http://www.bibleinterp.com/articles/2016/06/lam408001.shtml>]
- 2015 “What is the role of language study in the undergraduate Jewish Studies curriculum?” *AJS Perspectives, The Translation Issue*, Fall 2015, 64, 66.
[<http://perspectives.ajsnet.org>]
- 2010 “The Story of the Early Alphabet.” *The Oriental Institute News and Notes* 207: 8–9.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2019 Diverse and Underrepresented Faculty Fund, UNC Institute for the Arts and Humanities
- 2017 Schwab Academic Excellence Award, UNC Institute for the Arts and Humanities
- 2017 Lydie T. Shufro Research Fellowship, Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, Jerusalem
- 2016 UNC Junior Faculty Development Award
- 2016 Faculty Research and Travel Grant, Carolina Center for Jewish Studies
- 2014 Faculty Course Development Grant, Carolina Center for Jewish Studies
- 2013 Faculty Research and Travel Grant, Carolina Center for Jewish Studies
- 2012 Faculty Research and Travel Grant, Carolina Center for Jewish Studies
- 2011–2012 Whiting Dissertation Fellowship in the Humanities (declined)
- 2008–2012 Robert Brandt Cross/Harold A. Rantz Scholarship Funds (4x), Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago
- 2011 Division of the Humanities Conference Grant, University of Chicago
- 2009 Edward L. Ryerson Archaeological Fellowship, University of Chicago, for research travel to the Louvre, Paris
- 2003–2008 Century Fellowship, University of Chicago
- 2003 Professor W. J. Martin Prize in Hebrew, Regent College
- 2003 Old Testament Prize, Regent College

2003 Board of Governors' Prize for Proficiency in the Master of Divinity Program,
Regent College

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 "Sin and Metaphor in the Book of Ezekiel." SBL Annual Meeting (Theological Perspectives on the Book of Ezekiel Section), San Diego, CA, November 26.
- 2019 "The Next Chapter of the Story: Ugaritic Studies in the 21st Century." SBL Annual Meeting (Special Session on "Ugarit at 90"), San Diego, CA, November 25.
- 2019 "Visualizing 'Death' (*Môtu*) in the Ugaritic Texts." 65th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale (Workshop on "Researching Metaphor in the Ancient Near East"), Paris, France, July 12.
- 2018 "Polysemy, Metonymy, and Metaphor: On the Semantics of Biblical Hebrew *ḥatṭā't* and *'āšām*." SBL Annual Meeting (Joint Session with the Biblical Law and Metaphor Theory and the Hebrew Bible Sections), Denver, CO, November 18.
- 2017 "Does the Dialogue of Pessimism Allude to the River Ordeal?" AOS Annual Meeting (Ancient Near East: Literature) Los Angeles, CA, March 18.
- 2015 "The Adaptation of the Alphabetic Cuneiform Script to Write Hurrian at Ugarit." SBL Annual Meeting (Ugaritic Studies and Northwest Semitic Epigraphy Section), Atlanta, GA, November 23.
- 2015 "The Inscribed Lung and Liver Models from Ras Shamra-Ugarit Revisited." AOS Annual Meeting (Ancient Near East: Technologies of Divination), New Orleans, LA, March 15.
- 2014 (With Dennis Pardee.) "A Thabilu Update." SBL Annual Meeting (Ugaritic Studies and Northwest Semitic Epigraphy Section), San Diego, CA, November 23.
- 2013 "The Akkadian, Ugaritic, and Hurrian Texts of Ras Shamra-Ugarit: Reflections on the Interplay of Language, Genre, and Script." SBL Annual Meeting (Ugaritic Studies and Northwest Semitic Epigraphy Section), Baltimore, MD, November 24.
- 2013 "The Biblical Hebrew Root *bhl* in Light of New Ugaritic Evidence." SBL Annual Meeting (Biblical Lexicography Section), Baltimore, MD, November 23.
- 2013 "Literality and Metaphoricity in Akkadian Incantations." AOS Annual Meeting (Ancient Near East: Language and Linguistics), Portland, OR, March 15.
- 2013 "Possible Ugaritic Influences on the Hurrian of Ras Shamra-Ugarit." North American Conference on Afroasiatic Linguistics (NACAL 41), Yale University, New Haven, CT, February 17.
- 2012 "The Place of Metaphor in the Baal, Aqhat, and Kirta Texts." SBL Annual Meeting (Ugaritic Studies and Northwest Semitic Epigraphy Section), Chicago, IL, November 18.

- 2012 “Psalm 2 and the Disinheritance of Earthly Rulers.” SBL Annual Meeting (Book of Psalms Section), Chicago, IL, November 17.
- 2012 “The Akkadian, Ugaritic, and Hurrian Texts of Ras Shamra-Ugarit: Reflections on the Interplay of Language, Genre, and Script.” AOS Annual Meeting (Ancient Near East: Political and Cultural History), Boston, MA, March 17.
- 2011 “The LXX of Amos 9:12: Misreading, Theologically-Motivated Translation, or Preferred Reading?” SBL Annual Meeting (Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible Section), San Francisco, CA, November 20.
- 2011 “Metaphor, Lexicalization, and Diachronic Change: The Case of Biblical Hebrew *nāšā’*.” SBL Annual Meeting (Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew Section), San Francisco, CA, November 19.
- 2010 “Linguistic and Philosophical Insights on Metaphor in Biblical Hebrew.” Conference on Linguistic Method and Theory and the Languages of the Ancient Near East, Oriental Institute, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, April 16.

INVITED LECTURES AND PANELS

- forthc. ANSHE Lecture, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Johns Hopkins University (postponed due to COVID-19).
- 2020 Respondent, Online forum on “Ethical Reading and the Hebrew Bible,” BRANE Collective, August 5.
- 2018 “The Phoenician Script in the Development of the Early West Semitic Alphabet.” Southeastern Seminary, November 1.
- 2018 “Re-examining the Semantics of Biblical Hebrew *הטאת* and *אשם*.” Duke Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Colloquium, Duke University, October 22.
- 2018 “Biblical Studies: Challenges and Prospects.” UNC-UCAD Religious Studies Workshop, Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal, May 28.
- 2017 “The Cuneiform Alphabetic Script from Ugarit and Its Adaptations.” Linguistics Colloquium, UNC-Chapel Hill, October 27.
- 2017 “Sacrifice in Ugarit and Ancient Israel.” Wheaton College, September 6.
- 2017 “Metaphor in the Ugaritic Literary Texts.” Departmental Colloquium, Department of Biblical Studies, Tel Aviv University, June 6.
- 2017 “Form and Content in the Inscribed Liver and Lung Models from Ugarit.” Assyriology Seminar, Bar-Ilan University, May 16.
- 2017 “A Punishment Too Great to Bear or an Iniquity Too Great to be Forgiven? The Translation of Genesis 4:13 and its Implications.” Ethnic Chinese Biblical Colloquium Bi-Annual Meeting, Drew University, January 14.

- 2016 Respondent, “Review of Joseph Lam’s *Patterns of Sin in the Hebrew Bible*.” SBL Annual Meeting (Metaphor Theory and the Hebrew Bible Section), San Antonio, TX, November 21.
- 2016 Panelist, Seminar discussion of Joseph Lam’s *Patterns of Sin in the Hebrew Bible*, Carolina Center for Jewish Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill, April 19.
- 2015 “Patterns of Sin in the Hebrew Bible.” Ph.D. Colloquium, Southeastern Seminary, September 22.
- 2015 Presenter, “Discussion on Syllabus Design.” RELI Roundtable, Department of Religious Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill, April 29.
- 2015 Panelist, “Day to Day Life as a Faculty Member: A Conversation with NELC Alumni.” Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago, March 3.
- 2015 “Making Sense of the Ritual Texts from Ugarit.” New Faculty Microtalk, Institute for the Arts and Humanities, UNC-Chapel Hill, February 12.
- 2012 “The Metaphorical ‘Accounting’ of Sin in the Hebrew Bible.” Duke Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Colloquium, Duke University, October 23.
- 2011 “Sin and Metaphor in the Hebrew Bible.” Seminar presentation, Department of Religious Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill, December 6.
- 2010 “Latest Perspectives on the Birth of the Alphabet.” Public symposium: *Inventions of Writing*, Oriental Institute Museum, University of Chicago, November 13.
- 2010 “The Biblical Creation in its Ancient Near Eastern Context.” Lecture in the *Text and Truth* series, sponsored by Holy Trinity Church, held at the University of Chicago, February 16.

TEACHING

Courses Taught:

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

- Akkadian (graduate independent study)
- Ancient Israelite Religion (graduate independent study)
- Classical Hebrew I/II: A Linguistic Introduction to the Hebrew Bible
- Culture of the Ancient Near East
- Historical Hebrew and Semitic Linguistics
- Historical Hebrew Grammar (graduate independent study)
- History and Culture of Ancient Israel
- Intermediate Readings in Classical Hebrew (independent study)
- Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Literature
- Introductory Biblical Hebrew
- Jewish Languages (Jewish Studies Capstone Seminar)
- Myths and Epics of the Ancient Near East

Qumran Hebrew (graduate independent study)
Religion and Writing in the Ancient World (First-Year Seminar)
Religious Metaphor and Symbol
Sacrifice in the Ancient World (Honors)
Seminar in Religion and Literature: Metaphor in Religious Language
Syriac (graduate independent study)
Ugaritic (graduate independent study)

North Carolina State University
Civilization of the Ancient Near East

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Canaanite Dialects
Ugaritic Texts

University of Chicago
Elementary Akkadian
Elementary Classical Hebrew

Regent College
Introductory Old Testament Hebrew

Guest course lectures:

“Principles of the CV,” for *Religious Studies Professional Development Seminar* (Juliane Hammer), September 10, 2019.

“Introduction to Cuneiform,” for *Writing Systems: Past, Present, Future, Fictional* (David Moramarin, Dept. of Linguistics), February 16, 2018.

“Astrology in Mesopotamia,” for *RELI Capstone Seminar—Astrology: Order, Difference, and Approximation* (Todd Ochoa), February 14, 2017.

“The Concept of Messiah against its Ancient Near Eastern Background,” for *RELI Capstone Seminar—Messianic Movements* (Yaakov Ariel), August 31, 2016.

“Introduction to Cuneiform and Akkadian,” for *Mesoamerican Writing Systems* (David Moramarin, Dept. of Linguistics), October 30, 2015.

“The Hebrew Bible and the Origins of Early Judaism,” for *Introduction to Jewish Studies* (Yaakov Ariel), August 20, 2013.

“The Hebrew Bible and the Origins of Early Judaism,” for *Introduction to Jewish Studies* (Yaakov Ariel), August 23, 2012.

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

Oriental Institute, University of Chicago
Research Project Professional (2009–2010, part-time)—Performed high-resolution digital photography of both inscriptional (Elamite cuneiform, Aramaic ink) and iconographic artifacts for the Persepolis Fortification Archive Project.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Participant in the 2019 UNC Summer Institute for College Teaching, August 5–9, 2019.
Participant (by nomination), Wabash Center Dinner for New Teachers at the AAR/SBL Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 23, 2014.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

SBL “Ugaritic Studies and Northwest Semitic Epigraphy” Section
Steering Committee Member, 2011–present
Program Co-chair, 2013–2018
International SBL “Ugarit and Its World” Consultation
Steering Committee Member, 2019–present
Participant in SBL think tank on “The Future of Biblical Studies in American Undergraduate Liberal Arts Education,” Wake Forest University, October 7–8, 2018
Member of SBL working group on “Biblical Studies in Undergraduate Education” (initial term: 2019–2021)
Review of book proposals for Oxford University Press, Routledge, SBL Press, and Yale University Press.
Peer review of articles for *Education Sciences*, *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures*, *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, *Journal of Semitic Studies*, *Religions*, *Studia Orientalia Electronica*, and *Vetus Testamentum*.
Ad hoc consultation for the Oriental Institute Museum, Chicago (Dec 2012–Jan 2013)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

At the UNC-Chapel Hill:

Department of Religious Studies
Graduate Studies Committee, 2019–present
Media and Communications Coordinator, 2016–2017, 2019–present
Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2014–2017, 2019
Strategic Planning Task Force, 2016–2017
Liaison to the Office for Undergraduate Research, 2015–2017
Search Committee (Position in Hinduism and South Asian Religions), 2015–2016
Associate Director, Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Ancient Mediterranean Languages (joint program with Classics), 2015–present
Carolina Center for Jewish Studies
Faculty Steering Committee, 2011–present
Public Events Committee, 2019
Grant Review Committees, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017
Faculty Undergraduate Liaison, 2014–2015
IDEAs in Action Curriculum Review Committee, 2020–present
Member of the UNC Language Assembly, 2018–present

Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Review Committee, 2017, 2019

LANGUAGES

Modern:

Chinese (Cantonese)—native fluency

German, French, Arabic (MSA), Hebrew—reading knowledge, some conversational ability

Ancient:

Hebrew (Inscriptional, Biblical, and Tannaitic), Aramaic (Inscriptional, Imperial, Biblical, Targumic, and Syriac), Ugaritic, Phoenician-Punic, other Northwest Semitic dialects, Greek (Classical and Koine), Latin, Akkadian, Sumerian, Hittite, Hurrian, Old South Arabian

MEMBERSHIPS

Society of Biblical Literature

American Oriental Society

American Schools of Oriental Research

National Association of Professors of Hebrew

Updated November 20, 2020