**Shawn Zelig Aster**

**Academic Curriculum Vita**

Associate Professor, Martin (Szusz) Land of Israel Studies Department, Bar Ilan University, Ramat-Gan 5290007 Israel

Website: ​<https://biu.academia.edu/ShawnAster>

***Education***

University of Pennsylvania, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

Ph. D. in Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, December 2006

Dissertation: "The Phenomenon of Divine and Human Radiance in the Hebrew Bible and in Mesopotamian and Northwest Semitic Literatures: A Philological and Comparative Study."

Dissertation Committee: Prof. Jeffrey H. Tigay; Prof. Barry L. Eichler

McGill University, Department of Jewish Studies

M. A. in History of Jewish Biblical Interpretation, May 1996.

Thesis: "Narrative and Exegesis in Midrash Bereishit Rabba."

Harvard University, Department of Governnment

A.B. magna cum laude, June 1993.

Thesis: "Conventional Deterrence in Israeli National Security Policy 1949-1991."

***Honours and Awards***

* Israel Science Foundation Individual Research Grant, Number 1003-22, “Isaiah 40-66 and Mesopotamian Royal Inscriptions,” 2022-2024
* Ihel Foundation Research Grant, Bar-Ilan University, March 2018
* Israel Science Foundation Publication Grant, November 2017
* Azrieli Institute for Israel Studies, Concordia University, Montreal, Visiting Fellow, Spring 2016
* Chelst Book Grant, Yeshiva College, 2011
* Kreitman Post-doctoral Fellowship, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, 2005-2007
* Memorial Foundation Fellowship, 2001-2 and 2002-3
* Ellis Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, Fall 2002
* Dean's Scholar, University of Pennsylvania, 2000
* William Penn Fellow, University of Pennsylvania, 1995-2000
* J. W. McConnell Fellow at McGill University, 1993-1995

*Areas of Teaching Competence*: Hebrew Bible, Assyriology, Northwest Semitics, Rabbinic and Medieval Jewish Interpretation of the Bible, Historical Geography and Biblical History

*Areas of Research:* Connections between Biblical Prophecy and Near Eastern History, Historical Geography, Comparative Study of Cuneiform and Biblical Civilizations, Rabbinic Biblical Interpretation

***Teaching and Research Positions***

**Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan**

**Senior Lecturer, Martin (Szusz) Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology, 2012-2019**

**Associate Professor, Martin (Szusz) Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology, since 2019**

**Concordia University, Montreal, Canada**

**Visiting Scholar at the Azrieli Institute for Israel Studies, Spring 2016**

**University of Toronto, Canada**

**Visiting Researcher in the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, Spring 2016 and Fall 2019**

**Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies, Yeshiva College, Yeshiva University, New York (2007-2012)**

**Associate Faculty Member, Revel Graduate School, Yeshiva University (2010-2012)**

**Adjunct Faculty, Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration, Summer 2012 and Summer 2013**

**Rutgers University, New Jersey**

**Part-time Lecturer, Department of Jewish Studies, Spring 2008**

**Ben-Gurion University, Israel**

**Kreitman Post-doctoral Fellow, Department of Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Studies**

**2005-6 and 2006-7**

**Research Project: Prophetic Reactions to Neo-Assyrian Imperial Ideology**

**Haifa University, Israel**

**Instructor, Department of Bible, Fall 2006**

**Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel**

**Rothberg International School, Instructor (2006) and Co-ordinator (2007), Summer Institute in the World of the Bible**

**University of Pennsylvania**

**Lecturer in Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, 2003-4**

***Teaching Languages*:** English, Hebrew, French

***Research Languages***: Hebrew, Arabic, Akkadian, Aramaic, other Northwest Semitic dialects, German

***Publications***

***Books:***

* *The Unbeatable Light: Melammu and Its Biblical Parallels*. Alter Orient und Altes Testament volume 384, Muenster: Ugarit Verlag, 2012.
* *Reflections of Empire in Isaiah 1-39: Reactions to Assyrian Imperialism,* Ancient Near East Monographs 19, Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2017

<https://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/pubs/9780884142720_OA.pdf>

* Co-editor: *The Southern Levant Under Assyrian Domination*, ed. Avraham Faust and Shawn Zelig Aster, University Park, PA: Eisenbrauns, 2018

 ***Forthcoming Articles:***

* “Isaiah and Empire,” to appear in the *Cambridge Companion to Isaiah*, ed. Christopher Hays (Cambridge University Press, 2023)
* “Assyrian "Control Points" in the Domination of the Southern Levant in the Reign of Tiglath-Pileser III” to appear in *Aula Orientalis*
* “Dor in the Assyrian Period,” with Gilad Itach, to be published in *Israel Explorations Journal*
* “Assyria and Its Image in Hosea,” to appear in the *Oxford Handbook of Hosea*, ed. Brad Kelle (Oxford University Press, 2023)
* “Responses in Isaiah 40:1-11 to Jeremiah’s ‘Set Time’ Prophecy and Ezekiel’s Temple Vision,” to appear in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*

***Published Articles:***

* “Israelite Prophecy from its Origins to the Exile,” in *The Ancient Israelite World*, ed. Kyle H. Keimer and George A. Pierce (London and New York: Routledge, 2023), pp. 494-504.
* “The Contribution of Assyriology to the Study of Isaiah,” pp. 3-22 in *The History of Isaiah: The Formation of the Book and Its Presentation of the Past*, eds. Jacob Stromberg and Todd Hibbard (Forschungen zum Alten Testament 150; Berlin: Mohr Siebeck, 2021)
* “Ashdod in the Assyrian Period: Territorial Extent and Political History,” *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 80.1 (2021; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1086/715992>), pp. 323-340
* "Sargon in Samaria—Unusual Formulations in the Royal Inscriptions and their Value for Historical Reconstruction," *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 139.3 (2019: doi: <https://doi.org/10.7817/jameroriesoci.139.3.0591>): 591-610
* "An Assyrian Loyalty-Oath Imposed on Ashdod in the Reign of Tiglath-pileser III?", *Orientalia* 87 (2018): 275-289
* "Assyrian Influences on Biblical Literature and Judahite Society in the Late Eighth Century," pp. 469-481 in *Archaeology and History of Eighth-Century Judah*, ed. Jacob Wright and Zev Farber, SBL Ancient Near Eastern Monographs 23, Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2018
* "Between Narrative and Exegesis: Miyyad in Midrash Bereshit Rabba," pp. 147-171 in *To Fix Torah in their Heart: Festchrift for B. Barry Levy* (ed. by Jackie Du Toit, Jason Kalman, Hartley Lachter, and Vanessa Sasson (Cincinnati: HUC Press, 2018)
* "Akkadian *Bulluṭu* and Hebrew רפא: Pardon and Loyalty in Hosea and in Neo-Assyrian Political Texts," together with Abraham J. Berkovitz, *Hebrew Studies* 59 (2018): 201–226
* "Treaty and Prophecy: The Influence of Neo-Assyrian Political Thought on Biblical Literature," pp. 89-118 in *The Southern Levant Under Assyrian Domination*, ed. Avraham Faust and Shawn Zelig Aster, (University Park, PA: Eisenbrauns, 2018)
* The Historical Background of the Destruction of Judahite Gath in 712 BCE," pp. 1-9 in *Tell it in Gath: Studies in the History and Archaeology of Israel . Essays in Honor of A. M. Maeir on the Occasion of his Sixtieth Birthday*, Ägypten Und Altes Testament (ÄAT), edited by Jeff Chadwick, Louise Hitchcock, Itzhaq Shai and Joe Uziel, Ugarit Verlag, 2018
* "Isaiah 31 as a Response to Rebellions Against Assyria in Philistia," *Journal of Biblical Literature* 136 (2017): 347–361
* "Jerusalem in the Bible," (Heb.) pages 73-80 in Jerusalem from Its Beginnings to the Ottoman Conquest, ed. A. Faust and E. Baruch, Rennert Centre for Jerusalem Studies, Bar-Ilan University, 2017
* "Judah's Reaction to the Babylonian Exile," in Bible Lands E-Review, 2017 S1 (https://biblelandsreview.wordpress.com)
* "The Wedge-impressed Bowl and the Assyrian Deportation," together with Gilad Itach and David Ben-Shlomo, *Tel Aviv* 44 (2017):72-97
* "Israelite Embassies to Assyria in the First Half of the Eighth Century," *Biblica*  97 (2016): 175-198
* “Administrative Texts, Royal Inscriptions and Neo-Assyrian Administration in the Southern Levant: The View from the Aphek-Gezer Region,” together with Avraham Faust, *Orientalia* 84 (2015): 292-308
* "Ezekiel's Adaptation of Mesopotamian Melammu," *Welt des Orients* 45 (2015): 10-22
* “Isaiah 19: The Burden of Egypt and Neo-Assyrian Imperial Policy,” *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 135/3 (2015):453-470.
* “An Assyrian *Bit Mardite* Near Tel Hadid?" *Journal of Near East Studies* 74 (2015): 281-288
* “Images of the Throne Room of Assurnasirpal II at Calah in Isaiah 6,” *Marbeh Hokma,* Memorial Volume for Avigdor Victor Hurowitz, ed. S. Yona, M. Gruber, E. L Greenstein, S. Paul, P. Machinist (Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2015), 13-42.
* "The Role of Isaiah 14:28-32 in the Development of the Tradition of Jerusalem's Sanctity and Invincibility" (Heb.) *Hiddushim Be-Heker Yerushalayim* 20 (2014)
* “Central Hill Country,” *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Archaeology*, Oxford University Press
* “Why Sennacherib Did Not Conquer Jerusalem: The Assyrian Policy of Leveraging Territorial Conquest for Political Gain," (Heb.) *Hiddushim Be-Heker Yerushalayim* 19 (2013): 57-66.
* “Mishna Bava Metzia 7:7 and the Distribution of the Phoenician Jar: The Relationship of Mishnaic Hebrew to Northern Biblical Hebrew and to Phoenician and Archeological Evidence for the Continuity of Jewish Settlement in the Galilee from Iron II to the Greco-Roman Period,” in *Talmuda de-Eretz Israel*. Ed. Aaron J. Koller and Steven Fine (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2014),
* “The Function of the City of Jezreel and the Meaning of Jezreel in Hosea 1-2,” *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 71.1 (Spring 2012): 31-46.
* “The Exodus Narrative as an Expression of the Cosmic Combat Motif,” in *A Common Cultural Heritage: Studies on Mesopotamia and the Biblical World in Honor of Barry L. Eichler*, ed. G. Frame et all (Bethesda: CDL, 2011).
* “The Bread of the Dungheap: Light on Num. 21:5 from the Tell Fekheriye Inscription,” *Vetus Testamentum* 61 (2011): 341-358
* “The Transmission of Neo-Assyrian Claims of Empire to Judah in the Late Eighth Century,” *Hebrew Union College Annual* 78 (2009): 1-44
* “The Subversion of Assyrian Motifs in the Prophetic Narrative about Sennacherib’s War Against Judah (Isa. 37:24-25//II Kings 19:24-25)” (Heb.), *Shenaton Le Miqra Ve La Mizrah Ha Qadum* 19 (2009): 105-124.
* “On the Term ‘Qarne Hod’ in Late Midrashim,” in *Or Le-Mayer: Studies in Bible, Semitic Languages, Rabbinic Literature, and Ancient Civilizations, Presented to Mayer Gruber on the Occasion of his Sixty-fifth Birthday*, ed. Shamir Yona (Beer-sheva: Ben Gurion University, 2010), 39-52.
* “On the Place of Psalm 21 in Israelite Royal Ideology,” in *Mishne Todah: Studies in Deuteronomy and Related Literature in Honor of Jeffrey Tigay,* ed. David Glatt-Gilad, Nili S. Fox, M. Williams (Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2009), 307-320.
* "'They Feared God/ They Did Not Fear God:' On the Use of 'Fear of God' in II Kings 17 24-41,” in *Birkat Shalom: Studies in the Bible, Ancient Near Eastern Literature, and Postbiblical Judaism Presented to Shalom M. Paul on the Occasion of His Seventieth Birthday,* ed. C. Cohen et al (Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2008), 135-141.
* “The Historical Background to the Prophecy about the Messiah in Isaiah 10:28ff” (Heb.), in *Mehkere Yehuda ve Shomron* 17 (2008 ): 25-35.
* “The Image of Assyria in Isaiah 2:5-22: The Campaign Motif Reversed,” in the *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 127.3 (2007): 249-278.
* "What was Doeg the Edomite's Title? Textual Emendation vs. a Comparative Approach to I Samuel 21:8," *Journal of Biblical Literature* 122 (2003): 353-362

***Invited Lectures:***

* “The Modern David and Goliath: Environment, Heritage, and Archaeology in Israel,” Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies, Concordia University, Montreal, September 202
* “National Identity in the Biblical Narrative of Samson: Love, Death, and Ritual Meals,” Department of Religion, Concordia University, Montreal
* “Prophecy in Samaria: Amos 3:9-10,” Biblical Studies Guild, McMaster Divinity College, McMaster University (Ontario, Canada), January 2022 (by zoom)
* “Exodus 15 in its Historical Context,” Bernard Revel Graduate School, Yeshiva University, July 2021
* “Judahites in Babylonia and Isaiah 40,” McMaster Divinity College, McMaster University (Ontario, Canada), April 2020 (by zoom)
* “The Historical Background to the Root and Branch Prophecy,” McMaster Divinity College, McMaster University (Ontario, Canada), November 2019
* “Phoenicia as a Nodal Point in Assyrian Control of the Southern Levant in the Reign of Tiglath-pileser III,” Fourth annual conference of the Minerva Center for Relations between Israel and Aram in the Biblical Period, May 2019
* “Isaiah 44 and its Babylonian Background,” in Readings in Hebrew Bible, Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto, February 2019
* “Messianism: Its Origins and its Use in Israeli Political Discourse,” Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies, Concordia University, Montreal, November 2018
* "The Sophisticated Thief: Assyria in Hosea 4-14," Conference on the Book of Hosea in Honour of Prof. Mayer I. Gruber, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, June 2018
* ירושלים ביחזקאל ובישעיה, יום עיון במכללת ושינגטון, פברואר 2017
* "Rebellions Against Assyria in Philistia in the Reign of Sargon II and their Reflection in Isaiah 1-39," Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations and Center for Jewish Studies, University of Toronto, April 2016
* “Assyrian Control of Samaria and Its Reflection in Isaiah 1-39,” Department of Bible, Archaeology, and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, January 2016, Departmental Seminar
* “Deities in the Service of the King and Independent God,” Department of Archaeology and Near Eastern Cultures, Tel Aviv University, November 2015, Departmental Seminar
* "Historicity and the Exodus," Yeshiva University, New York, December 2014
* “Sennacherib in Judah,” Seminar for Historical Reconstruction, Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations and Center for Jewish Studies, University of Toronto, April 2013
* “Literary Evidence for the Historicity of the Exodus,” Center for Jewish Studies, York University, Toronto, April 2013
* “Periodizing the Eighth Century Prophecies of First Isaiah,” Department of Bible, Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, November 2012
* "Teaching Biblical Hebrew to Students with Language-Based Learning Disabilities," Department of Hebrew and Semitic Languages, Bar Ilan University, Spring 2012
* “Isaiah 60 and Neo-Babylonian Royal Inscriptions,” Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology, Bar Ilan University, February 2011

***Conference Papers***

* “’Our Hope is Lost, We are Cut Off’ (Ezek. 37:11),” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2022
* “Reactions to Assyrian Imperialism in Micah 1-5,” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2022
* “Isaiah 10:5-15 as a Reaction to the Destruction of the Kingdom of Israel,” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2021
* “Kings and Netsivim in Edom: On the meaning of the terms "melek" and "netsiv" in Biblical Hebrew,” Session on Nomadism in the Biblical World, American Schools of Oriental Research online Conference, Nov. 2020
* “How Isaiah 44:21–28 Both Support Cyrus and Undermine His Neo-Babylonian Royal Ideology”, Assyriology Section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2019
* "Reflections of Empire in Isaiah 11:1-10," Formation of Isaiah Section, Society of Biblical Literature, November 2018
* "A Dialogue Between Isaiah 40 and Ezekiel on the Nature of *Kebod YHWH* ?" International Conference on Contextualing Jewish Temples, Bar-Ilan University, May 2018
* "Ashdod in the Assyrian Period," (Heb) Conference of the Israel Society for Assyriology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Haifa University, Feb. 2018
* "The Image of Assyria in Hosea 4-14," Assyriology Section, Society for Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2017
* "The Assyrian Boasts in Isaiah 10:13-14," Hebrew Scriptures and Cognate Literature Section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2017
* "Reactions to Assyrian Imperial Ideology in Isaiah 1-39," World Congress of Jewish Studies, August 2017
* *"*The Deir Alla Text and Balaam's Story: A Literary Comparison," Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting December 2015
* "Grain and Poverty in Samaria," Workshop on Assyrian Domination in the Southern Levant, held at Yad Ben-Zvi in Jerusalem, November 2015
* "תגובות מיכה לכיבושים האשוריים," כנס "כי נביא היה בתוכם" – ספרות הנבואה לדורותיה של המחלקה לתנ''ך באוניברסיטת בר-אילן, סיון תשע''ה
* "Archaeology and Dating the Messiah: the Historical Background of Isaiah 10:28-34,” Archaeology and Text: Towards Establishing a Meaningful Dialogue Between Written Sources and Material Finds, an International Seminar, Jerusalem and Ariel, May 2015
* “השתתפותם של אנשי בנימין בבניית חומת ירושלים בימי נחמיה," כנס "במעבה ההר" של מדרשת הרי גופנא, חשון תשע''ה
* "סרגון וסנחריב בשפלה: עיון משווה," כנס לכיש של מדרשת הדרום, תמוז תשע''ה
* "The Creation of Historical Narrative in Chronicles: The War of Jehoshaphat in II Chronicles 20", Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting, December 2014
* "Changes in Assyrian Imperial Control of the West in the Seventh Century and the Development of Isaiah’s Theology," Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2013
* “Micah 5:1-5 and Neo-Assyrian Claims of Empire,” American Oriental Society Annual Meeting, March 2013
* "השלטון האשורי בשמרון, על בסיס תעודות מנהלתיות" – כנס מחקרי יהודה ושמרון, של המרכז האוניברסיטאי אריאל, סיון תשע''ג
* “Periodizing First Isaiah’s Responses to Neo-Assyrian Claims of Empire,” Hebrew Scriptures and Cognate Literature Section at Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2011, read by substitute due to illness
* Images of the Palace of Ashurnasirpal II at Calah in Isaiah 6,” Assyriology Section at Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2011, read by substitute due to illness
* “Isaiah 31 as a Response to Rebellions against Assyria in Philistia,” in session on The Bible and Empires of the Ancient Near East, at Society of Biblical Literature International Meeting (London), July 2011
* “Mishna Bava Metzia 7:7 and the Distribution of the Phoenician Jar: The Relationship of Mishnaic Hebrew to Northern Biblical Hebrew and to Phoenician” at Talmuda de-Eretz Israel: Archaeology and the Rabbis in Late Antiquity, international conference organized by the Center for Israel Studies at Yeshiva University
* “Isaiah 31 and the Relationship between Judah and Assyria in the Period of Sargon II” (Heb.), Conference in Honor of Prof. Anson F. Rainey, Bar Ilan University, May 2010
* “The Gideon Story as an Expression of the Sovereign’s Day of Conquest,” Association of Jewish Studies Annual Meeting, December 2009
* “The Exodus Narrative as an Expression of the Cosmic Combat Motif,” Tablet and Torah: Mesopotamia and the Biblical World, Conference in Honor of Dr. Barry L. Eichler, University of Pennsylvania Museum, March 2009
* “Responses to Neo-Assyrian Universalism and the Centralization of Worship in the Time of Hezekiah,” Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, December 2008
* “The Centralization of Worship in the Temple and the Development of Israelite Monotheism,” YU Center for Israel Studies Conference, May 2008
* “The Historical Background of Isa. 10:28-32”, Annual Conference on Judea and Samaria Studies, Ariel Academic College, June 2007
* “The Mesopotamian Background to Isaiah 6,” Ben-Gurion University Department of Bible, Archeology, and Ancient Near Eastern Studies Seminar, May 2007
* “The Babylonian Background to Isaiah 60,” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2007
* “The Vision of the End of Days in Isaiah and Micah as a Reaction to Assyrian Might,” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2007
* “The Polemic Against Assyrian Royal Inscriptions in Isa. 37:24-25,” Israel Association for Ancient Near Eastern Studies Annual Conference, Ben-Gurion University, January 2007
* “Geographical Names in Transition: Nature and Relationships with God in Hosea,” Bi-Annual Conference of the Department of Biblical Studies, Haifa University, December 2006
* “Royal and Divine *Melammu:*  Cracking a Code in Assyrian Royal Inscriptions,” Seminar of the S. N. Kramer Assyriology Institute, Bar-Ilan University, November 2006
* “*Kebod YHWH* in Ezekiel and its Mesopotamian Background,” Annual Conference of the Dept. of Bible, Archeology, and Ancient Near Eastern Studies at Ben-Gurion University, January 2006
* "Isaiah's Universalism and Neo-Assyrian Royal Ideology," Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, December 2004
* "Religious Practice in the Northern Kingdom in the Eighth Century B.C.E.," Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, December 2003
* "The Excavations at Jezreel and the Symbolism of Jezreel in Hosea 1-2," Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2003
* "Parallels to the Fire and the Cloud in the Exodus and Wilderness Narratives," Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2002.
* "Jeremiah Chap. 1 and Mesopotamian Royal Inscriptions," Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, December 2001
* "Divine Radiance and Isaiah Chapter 2," World Congress for Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, August 2001
* "Literary Analysis of II Kings 8-10 in Light of the Tel Dan Stele," Near and Middle Eastern Studies Graduate Student Symposium, University of Toronto, March 2001
* "Is Northern Biblical Hebrew Related to Mishnaic Hebrew: Archeological Evidence for Settlement in the Lower Galilee 733 BCE-103 BCE," Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, Boston, December 2000.