

Expert Seminar "Biblical Hebrew and digital data-bases"
Complutense University of Madrid
Friday, 8 June 2012

9:00 Welcome

9:15 Wido van Peursen (Leiden), *Changing our Philological Minds. Textual Scholarship at the Threshold of a Digital Order*

10:00 Andrés Piquer (Madrid), *An Electronic Synoptic Polyglot Edition of Kings*

10:30 Dirk Bakker (Leiden), *Digitizing textual similarity in the Hebrew Bible: the case of Judges 4 and 5*

11:00 Coffee break

11:30 Janet Dyk (Amsterdam), *Patterns and Meaning: The Role of Syntax in the Significance of a Hebrew Verb*

12:15 Alexander Andrason (Stellenbosch), *Against floccinaucinihilipilification of the counterfactual sense of the BH suffix conjugation – or an explanation of why the "indicative" qatal expresses conditions, hypotheses and wishes*

12:45 Reinoud Oosting (Amsterdam), *Towards an Electronic Valency Lexicon: Syntactic Patterns of Motion Verbs in the Textual Tradition of Isaiah*

13:15 Lunch

14:30 Coffee

15:00 Luis Vegas – Guadalupe Seijas – Javier del Barco (Madrid), *From Clause Boundary to Text Boundary: towards a digitization of discourse types*

15:45 Break

16:00 Seminar session

17:30 Closing of the Seminar

Abstracts

Wido van Peursen

Changing our Philological Minds. Textual Scholarship at the Threshold of a Digital Order

This paper will elaborate on the insights presented by Adriaan van der Weel in his book *Changing our Textual Minds. Towards a Digital Order of Knowledge* (Manchester 2011). Van der Weel analyses the continuities and discontinuities in textual transmission in the transition from analogue to digital, and from a print paradigm to an increasingly digital

world. In my presentation I will explore the applicability of Van der Weel's views to textual scholarship, in which not only the means of scholarly communication, but also the research object itself has a textual nature. Discussing the ways in which "invention" and "discovery" went side by side in previous medium changes (e.g. from manuscript to printed book), it will explore how biblical scholars can discover the still largely unexplored potential of digital text and go beyond the imitation of traditional scholarly practices.

Andrés Piquer

An Electronic Synoptic Polyglot Edition of Kings

This Project takes as its basis the Renaissance concept of Polyglot Bible as a medium and tool to better reflect the reality of textual plurality in the process of redaction and transmission of the text of Kings in its different textual types and versions. In the our age, the possibilities offered by computers and database encoding give the traditional polyglot layout a series of new advantages and flexibility which constitute a possible change of paradigm in the way we edit biblical and other works with a plural and complex textual history.

Janet Dyk

Patterns and Meaning: The Role of Syntax in the Significance of a Hebrew Verb

Biblical Studies and digital databases – What relation should there ideally be between the two? What constraints does the one put upon the other? What elements from the one science can be formulated in terms of the other science in order to create a fruitful interaction between them? How does one best account for human decisions taken in creating a database? In pursuit of answers to these questions, examples will be taken from the field of verbal valence research in which I am presently involved.

Alexander Andrason

Against floccinaucinihilipilification of the counterfactual sense of the BH suffix conjugation – or an explanation of why the “indicative” qatal expresses conditions, hypotheses and wishes

The present paper demonstrates that the counterfactual value displayed by the BH qatal is a rightful and logical component of the total meaning of the suffix conjugation, understood as a network of conceptually and historically connected senses. The chaining procedure built on the framework of universal paths (viz. a theory of typologically highly plausible evolutionary scenarios) enables the author to relate six specific values of the counterfactual domain (real and unreal optative, real and unreal hypothetical, as well as real and unreal conditional), and to establish their diachronic and synchronic (i.e. conceptual) arrangement. Furthermore, by employing an analogical chaining method, the entire counterfactual block is linked to the dominant indicative type of the qatal and, in particular, to its perfect, perfective and past values. The results of the article also demonstrate that – contrary to widespread opinion – the optative use of the BH qatal does not reflect a loss or omission of an original apodosis. Quite the reverse, the optative value was the initial modal meaning that the Proto-Semitic *qatal- acquired in the vicinity of the particle *law and its negative varieties: the BH optative examples are, simply then, remnants of such an ancient usage.