

Prof. Tova Forti

Associate Professor, Dept. of Bible, Archaeology and ANE

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

P.O. Box 653, Beer-Sheva 8410500, Israel.

Email: tforti@bgu.ac.il

Tel: (972) 8 6461095

Subject area and specialization:

Most of my work relates to biblical wisdom literature, especially Ecclesiastes, Proverbs, and Sirach. I have a particular affection for faunal images in the Bible.

I am currently writing a commentary on Ecclesiastes (with Katharine J. Dell) for the International Exegetical Commentary on the Old Testament (IECOT)

Other areas of my research are: The Greek translation of Proverbs, Wisdom psalms, Realia and Metaphor

Research Supervision

Current and recent topics issued by Master and PhD students include Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Psalms, and Sirach.

Key Publications

Books

Animal Imagery in the Book of Proverbs. VTSup 118, Leiden: Brill, 2008.

"Like a Lone Bird on a Roof": Animal Imagery and the Structure of Psalms, Critical Studies in the Hebrew Bible 10 (eds. A.C. Hagedorn, N. McDonald, and S. Weeks); University Park, Pennsylvania: Eisenbrauns/Pennsylvania University Press, 2018.

Edited Books and Editorial Activities

"Now It Happened in Those Days": Studies in Biblical, Assyrian, and Other Ancient Near Eastern Historiography Presented to Mordechai Cogan on His 75th Birthday (2 Vols). Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2017.

Member of Editorial Board, *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament*. 2019-present.

Member of Editorial Board, *The Journal of Theological Studies*. 2021-present.

Articles

Animal Images in the Book of Proverbs. *Biblica* 77 (1996) 48-63.

Animals in the Book of Proverbs. Pp. 57-61, in "Couched as a lion...who shall rouse him up" (Gen 49:9): Depictions of Animals from the Leo Mildenberg Collection, University of Haifa: Hecht Museum Catalogue 16, 1999. (Hebrew)

The Moth Image: A Window on a Wisdom Psalm (39). Pp. 319-331 in *Homage to Shmuel: Studies in the World of the Bible*, ed. Z. Talshir, S. Yona, and D. Sivan. Jerusalem: Bialik Institute/Ben-Gurion University Press, 2001.

'Who Teaches us More than Beasts of the Earth, and Makes us

Wiser than the Birds of the Heaven (Job 35:11),' Pp. 120-24, in *PECUS*, ed. B. Frizel. Rome: Swedish Institute in Rome, 2004. Online: <http://www.svenska-institutet-rom.org/project/pecus.htm/>.

The Fly and the Dog: Observations on the Ideational Polarity in the Book of Qoheleth. Pp. 235-55, in *Seeking Out the Wisdom of the Ancients: Essays Offered to Honor Michael V. Fox*, ed. R. L. Troxel et al.; Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2005.

Developing Proverbs: Ideational Stratification in the Editions of the Book of Proverbs. Pp. 45-60, in *On The Border Line: Textual Meets Literary Criticism*, ed. Z. Talshir and D. Amara. Beersheba 18; Beersheba: Ben-Gurion University of the Negev Press, 2005.

Proverbs 7 MT and LXX: Form and Content. *Textus* 22 (2005) 129-67.

[coauthored with Zipora Talshir]

The Topos of the 'Binding of Isaac' (the *Aqedah*) in Modern Hebrew Poetry. Pp. 193-210, in *Unbinding the Binding of Isaac*, ed. M. M. Caspi and J. T. Greene. North Richland Hills, Texas, 2007.

Bee's Honey: From Realia to Metaphor in Biblical Wisdom Literature. *Vetus Testamentum* 56 (2006) 327- 41.

Transposition of Motifs in the Elijah and Elisha Cycles. Pp. 229-49, in *And God Said—"You Are Fired": Elijah and Elisha*, ed. M. M. Caspi and J. T. Greene. North Richland Hills, Texas, 2007.

Conceptual Stratification in LXX Prov 26,11: Toward Identifying the Tradents Behind the Aphorism. *Zeitschrift für die Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft* 119 (2007) 241-58.

The *Isha Zara* in Proverbs 1-9: Allegory and Allegorization. *Hebrew Studies* 48 (2007) 89-100.

A New Criterion for Identifying 'Wisdom Psalms'. Pp. 365-379. in *Birkat Shalom: Studies in the Bible, Ancient Near Eastern Literature and Post-biblical Judaism presented to Shalom M. Paul on the Occasion of his Seventieth Birthday*, ed. C. Cohen, V. Hurowitz, Y. Muffs, B. Schwartz, and J. Tigay. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2008.

The Concept of Reward in Proverbs: Divergent Paradigms of Thinking? *Beit Mikra* 53 (2008) 105-123. (Hebrew)

The Charm of the Snake Charmer and the Snake with No Charm: Towards the Meaning of בעל הלשון in Ecclesiastes 10:11. *Shnaton* 18 (2008) 43-56. (Hebrew)

Two Cases of Secondary Interpolation of Fauna Images. *Revue Biblique* 116 (2009) 232-45.

Il sacrificio d'Isacco nella poetica ebraica moderna. *Rivista di Storia e Letteratura religiosa* 22 (2009) 383-95.

'The Race is not Won by the Swift': Sage and Prophet Confront the Principle of Cause-Consequence Nexus," Pp. 317-329 in *Or LeMayer: Studies in Bible, Semitic Languages, Rabbinic Literature, and Ancient Civilizations*, ed. S. Yona. Beersheba: Ben-Gurion University Press, 2010.

'Sweet as Honey': From Realia to Metaphor in Biblical Literature. Pp. 25-40 in *Her Pillars are Seven: Studies in Biblical, Post Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Wisdom Literature*, ed. V. A. Hurowitz and S. Yona. Beersheba 20; Beer Sheva: Ben-Gurion University Press, 2011.

Of Ships and Seas, and Fish and Beasts: Viewing the Concept of Universal Providence in the Book of Jonah through the Prism Of Psalms," *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* 35 (2011) 359-74.

The Polarity of Wisdom and Fear of God in the Eden Narrative and in the Book of Proverbs. *Biblische Notizen* 149 (2011) 45-57.

Arrangement and Editing in Ecclesiastes: The Saying as a connective link," *Beit Mikra* 57 (2012) 52-71 (Hebrew).

The Polarity of Wisdom and Fear of God in the Eden Narrative and the Book of Proverbs. Pp. 33-46 in *Eve: The Unbearable Flaming Fire*, ed. M. M. Caspi and J. T. Greene. *Biblical Intersections* 10; Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias, 2013.

The Feminine Personification of Wisdom and the 'Wise Woman' as Persona. Pp. 201-209, in *A Life in Parables and Poetry: Mishael Maswari Caspi*. ed. J. T. Greene. *Islamkundliche Untersuchungen*. Band 318; Berlin: Klaus-Schwarz Verlag, 2014.

The Concept of 'Reward' in Proverbs: A Diachronic or Synchronic Approach? *Currents in Biblical Research* 12 (2014) 129-45.

'Four are among the Tiniest on Earth, Yet they are the wisest of the wise.' (Proverbs 30:24): Animal Imagery from the Perspective of the Wisdom Literature," *Bible Lands E-Review (BLER) Studies* 2014/S1

Online: <http://biblelandsreview.wordpress.com/bible-lands-studies/>.

Gattung and Sitz im Leben: Methodological Problems in Identifying the Wisdom Psalm. Pp. 205-20 in *Is There a Wisdom Tradition? New Prospects in Israelite Wisdom Studies*, ed. M. Sneed. SBL Ancient Israel and Its Literature Series; Atlanta: SBL Press, 2015.

Human Tribulation and Transience in Job: The Metaphor of the Moth. Pp. 161-169 in *Marbeh Ḥokmah: Studies in the Bible and the Ancient Near East in Loving Memory of Victor Avigdor Hurowitz*, ed. Y. Shamir, E. L. Greenstein, M. I. Gruber, P. Machinist, and S. Paul. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2015.

'If You Go Down to the Woods Today': B(e)aring the Text of Proverbs MT and LXX. Pp. 103-12, in *From Author to Copyist: Composition, Redaction and Transmission of the Hebrew Bible: Zipi Talshir Festschrift*, ed. C. Werman. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns. 2015.

Of Snakes and Sinners: An Intertextual Reading of *Ba ʿal ha-lashon* in Qoh 10:11 in Light of *ʿalish lashon* in Ps 140:12[11]. Pp. 84-93, in *Reading Ecclesiastes Intertextuality*, ed. K. J. Dell and W. Kynes. Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies; Bloomsbury: T&T Clark, 2015.

The Function of the Root *skl* in shaping the Ideal Figure of David in 1 Samuel 18. *Vetus Testamentum* 65 (2015) 390-400

[coauthored with D. Glatt-Gilad]

Animals in the Wisdom Literature. *Et Mikra* 3 (2015)

On line: <http://www.etmikra.cet.ac.il/>

Janus Sayings: A Linking Device in Qoheleth's Discourse. *Zeitschrift für die Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft* 128 (2016) 115-28.

[coauthored with Katharine J. Dell]

At the Intersection of Intellect and Insolence: The Historiographic Significance of Solomon's and Jehoshaphat's "Tarshish Ships" in the Light of a Wisdom Motif. Pp. 67-80, in *"Now It Happened in Those Days": Studies in Biblical, Assyrian, and Other Ancient Near Eastern Historiography Presented to Mordechai Cogan on His 75th Birthday*, ed. A. Baruchi-Unna, Tova Forti, Shmuel Arituv, Israel Ephal and Jeffrey H. Tigay. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2017.

[coauthored with D. Glatt-Gilad]

Enjoying the Tension: Reading Qoh 2:25 in the Context of Qoh 2:24-26," *Vetus Testamentum* 69 (2019) 481-89.

[coauthored with Katharine J. Dell]

Female Imagery in the Wisdom Literature. Pp. 177-94, in *Wiley Blackwell Companion to Wisdom Literature*, ed. Samuel L. Adams and Matthew J. Goff. John Wiley & Sons, 2020.

Ecclesiastes. Pp. 515-32, in *The Oxford Handbook of Wisdom and Wisdom Literature*, ed. Will Kynes. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020.

Hunting and Searching: Contrasting Patterns of Female Behavior in Wisdom Literature. *Journal of the Ancient Near Eastern Society* 34 (2020) 22-41.

'Even the sparrow has found a home' (Ps 84:4): From uprooting and wandering to safety and intimacy. Pp. 233-43, in *Networks of Metaphors in the Hebrew Bible*, ed. Danilo Verde and Ante Labahan. BETL 309, Leuven-Paris-Bristol: Peeters, 2020.

'When a Bird Flies through the air': Enigmatic Paths of Birds in Wisdom Literature. Pp. 245-61, in *Networks of Metaphors in the Hebrew Bible*, ed. Danilo Verde and Ante Labahan. BETL 309, Leuven-Paris-Bristol: Peeters, 2020.

[coauthored with Katharine J. Dell]

'Let Not the Wise Man Glory in his Wisdom': Challenging the Deed-Consequence Paradigm. Pp. 131-56, in *Scribes as Sages and Prophets*, ed. Jutta Krispenz. Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft 496; Berlin: De Gruyter, 2021.

'Yet, No One Remembered that Poor Man': Qoheleth and Ben Sira on the Wisdom of the Poor, in *Ben Sira in Conversation with Jewish Traditions: Presented to Nuria Calduch-Benages on Her 65th Birthday*, ed. Francis M. Macatangay, Renate Egger-Wenzel and Javier Ruiz-Ortiz. *Deuterocanonical and Cognate Literature Yearbook*; Berlin: De Gruyter, 2022. [Forthcoming]

Book Reviews

Review of R. N. Whybray, *The Composition of the Book of Proverbs* (JSOTSup 168; Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1994). *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 116 (1996) 544-45.

Review of H. Shapira, *Ecclesiastes: The Biblical Philosopher* (Kineret Zemora-Bitan, 2011). "Qohelet Alive and Kicking", *Katharsis* 17 (2011) 55-69. (Hebrew)

Review of A.V. Horowitz, *Proverbs Introduction and Commentary*, 2 Vols., Mikra Leyisrael (ed. S. Ahituv), Tel Aviv: Am Oved, 2012. *Beit Mikra* 60 (2015) 319-29. (Hebrew)

Review of Nili Shupak, 'No Man is Born Wise': Ancient Egyptian Wisdom Literature and its Contact with Biblical Literature (Jerusalem: Bialik, 2016). *Shnaton* 25 (2017) 345-56. (Hebrew)

Review of Mette Bundvad, *Time in the Book of Ecclesiastes* (Oxford Theology and Religion Monographs; Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2015). *The Journal of Theological Studies* 69/2 (2018) 748-53.

Review of Guy Darshan, *After the Flood: Stories of Origins in the Hebrew Bible and Eastern Mediterranean Literature* (Jerusalem: Bialik Institute, 2018). *Beit Mikra* 35 (2018) 200-207. (Hebrew)

Encyclopaedia Articles

12.3.1 Proverbs: Septuagint. Pp. 253-59, in *Textual History of the Bible*, vol. 1C: *Ketuvim (Writings)*, ed. A. Lange and E. Tov. Leiden: Brill, 2017. [www.brill.com/thb]

Nest in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, in *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception (EBR)*, ed. Constance Furey, Steven L. McKenzie, Thomas Römer, Jens Schröter, Barry Dov Walfish and Eric Ziolkowski. Berlin/Boston: Walter de Gruyter, 2020. ebr@degruyter.com

Appreciations and Necrologies

In Memory of Victor Avigdor Horowitz, *Beit Mikra* 58 (2013) 5-11.

Victor Avigdor Hurowitz, of Blessed Memory (1948-2013), *Shnaton* 23 (2014) 1-5.

Zipora Talshir, of Blessed Memory (1946-2016)," *Shnaton* 26 (2020) 11-15.