

Sam is a scholar of biblical texts and the ancient Near East. He researches the Bible through various critical methods and in light of wider historical contexts to understand both the production of these documents as well as their history of interpretation. His particular areas of research include the development of the Pentateuch (or first five books of the Hebrew Bible), legal hermeneutics in the ancient Near East, language ideology in the ancient world, and ritual theory applied to biblical texts. He also has interests in archaeology, Semitic philology and linguistics, and Late Antiquity (Rabbinic biblical interpretation, Ethiopic Christianity, and the advent of Islam).

His first book, *Language Contact, Colonial Administration, and the Construction of Identity in Ancient Israel*, is slated to be in print in April or May 2021 (published in the Harvard Semitic Monographs series). Sam has published articles in journals ranging from source critical approaches to the Hebrew Bible to the comparative enterprise of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. His second book explores how a reworked interpretation of the Tower of Babel episode brings biblical criticism into conversation with the interpretation of biblical texts in religious communities as well as trends in intellectual and political history.