

Dr Joseph Scales

ORCID: 0000-0001-7288-8035

Qualifications:

- 2017–21 **PhD Theology and Religion**, University of Birmingham
 Title: Religious Identity and Spatiality in Hasmonean and Herodian Galilee
 Supervisors: Prof Charlotte Hempel, Dr Karen Wenell, Dr Gareth Sears
 Examiners: Prof Thomas Kazen; Prof Candida Moss
- 2015–16 **MA Theology and Religious Studies, Distinction**, University of Nottingham
- 2012–15 **BA Theology and Religious Studies, First Class**, University of Nottingham

Positions held:

- 01/2026–01/2030 Postdoctoral fellow connected to AViVa FRIPRO-project
University of Bergen, Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies and Religion
- 01/2026–01/2030 Postdoctoral fellow in Ancient Studies (appointed)
University of Bergen, Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies and Religion
- 08/2023–08/2025 Marie Skłodowska-Curie postdoctoral fellow
University of Agder, Department of Religion, Philosophy and History
- 10/2022–07/2023 Tutor and examiner
University of London, School of Divinity

Funding, awards and scholarships:

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|---------|--|---------------------------|
| 2026–30 | Researcher Project for Early Career Scientists (FRIPRO) , Research Council of Norway and University of Bergen
Project title: <i>Analysing violent variations in ancient Jewish narrative</i>
Project number: 359600 | NOK
11,571,000 |
| 2023–25 | Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship , Horizon Europe
Project title: <i>Fighting Talk – Motivating Violence in Ancient Judaism</i>
Project number: 101104029 | €226,751 |
| 2022 | Institute for Classical Studies research support grant | £350 |
| 2021 | 1 st place essay prize – Palestine Exploration Fund Philip Davies ECR Award | £750 |
| 2019–21 | AHRC “Categories and Boundaries” Conference Organisation Grant | c. £6000 |
| 2019 | AHRC Research Training Support Grant | £700 |
| 2018 | Anglo-Israel Archaeological Society Grant | £500 |
| 2017–20 | AHRC Midlands3Cities Doctoral Training Scholarship | c.
£58,000 |
| 2017–19 | AHRC Student Development Funds | c. £4050 |
| 2017–18 | AHRC “Borders and Boundaries” Conference Organisation Grant | c. £7800 |
| 2016 | Harry Lucas Travel Scholarship, Cripps Hall, University of Nottingham | £300 |
| 2015–16 | School of Humanities Masters Scholarship , University of Nottingham | £5920 |
| 2015 | Memorial Scholarship, University of Nottingham | £1000 |

Monographies:

1. Scales, Joseph. *Fighting Talk: Motivating Violence in Ancient Judaism through the Pre-Battle Speech*. Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism. Mohr Siebeck, forthcoming.

2. Scales, Joseph. *Galilean Spaces of Identity: Judaism and Spatiality in Hasmonean and Herodian Galilee*. Supplements to the Journal for the Study of Judaism 214. Brill, 2024.

Reviews:

- George J. Brooke, *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* 49.5 (2025): 137–138.
 Dennis Mizzi, *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 57.1 (2026): 119–123.
 Joan E. Taylor, *Revue de Qumrân* (forthcoming).

Edited journal issues:

“Categories and Boundaries in Second Temple Jewish Literature.” Edited by Joseph Scales and Charlie Comerford. *Advances in Ancient, Biblical, and Near Eastern Research* 2.2 (2022).

Peer-reviewed articles:

- 1 Scales, Joseph and Katie Turner. “Did the Romans Think that the Jews Wore Trousers?” *Journal of Ancient Judaism* (forthcoming).

- 2 Scales, Joseph and Isaac T. Soon. “Self-Made ‘Men’: The Progressive Emasculation of the Brothers Asinaeus and Anilaeus in Josephus, *Antiquities* 18.” *The Classical Quarterly* 75.2 (2026): 1–15.

- 3 Kozlova, Ekaterina E. and Joseph Scales. “The Booty Call: Plundering as (Dis)Assemblage in the Book of Judith.” *Vetus Testamentum Advance Articles* (2025): 1–24.

- 4 Scales, Joseph. “Responsibility for Murder: The Background of Judith’s Legal Argumentation.” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 144.4 (2025): 719–739.

- 5 Scales, Joseph and Katie Turner. “Queen Alexandra Was *Not* the Widow of Judah Aristobulus I.” *Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha* 34.2 (2024): 148–166.

- 6 Scales, Joseph. “Susanna and Callirhoe: Female Bodies, Law, and Novels.” *Lectio Difficilior* (2022): 1–26.

- 7 Scales, Joseph. “Who is “Worthy of Honour”? Women *as* Elders in Late Second Temple Period Literature.” *Journal for Interdisciplinary Biblical Studies* 4.2 (2022): 113–129.

- 8 Scales, Joseph. “Bathing Jewish, Bathing Greek: Developing an Approach to De-Categorising Hellenism and Judaism.” *Palestine Exploration Quarterly* 154.3 (2022): 171–184.

- 9 Quine, Cat and Joseph Scales. “Josephus’ Adaptation of the Athaliah Narratives.” *Vetus Testamentum* 72.1 (2022): 93–108.

- 10 Scales, Joseph and Ellena Lyell. “Uncovering the Dead, Dethroning the King: Divine Embodiment in 1 Samuel 28:14.” *Hebrew Studies* 62 (2021): 97–115.

- 11 Scales, Joseph. “Preparing for Military Action: Judith’s Purificatory Washing in Judith 12:7.” *Vetus Testamentum* 71.4/5 (2021): 687–703.

- 12 Scales, Joseph and Cat Quine. “Athaliah and Alexandra: Gender and Queenship in Josephus.” *Journal of Ancient Judaism* 11.2 (2020): 233–250.

- 13 Scales, Joseph. “The Linguistic Connection between Antiochus IV Epiphanes and the ‘Abomination of Desolation’ in the Greek Translations of the Book of Daniel.” *Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft* 131.1 (2019): 105–112.

Book chapters and other articles:

- 1 Scales, Joseph. "Antiquities Book 9." In *The Oxford Critical Guide to Josephus*. Edited by David Edwards. Oxford Critical Guides. Oxford University Press (under contract).

- 2 Scales, Joseph. "Hellenism, Hellenization." In *Brill's Encyclopedia of the Dead Sea Scrolls*. Edited by Sidnie White Crawford, Lawrence H. Schiffman and James C. VanderKam. Brill (submitted).

- 3 Scales, Joseph. "Tyrants as Grandparents in Josephus' *Antiquities*." In *Grandparents in the Ancient World*. Edited by Lisa Brunet (under review).

- 4 Scales, Joseph. "No pity was shown for age: Jewish representations and realities of being elderly during wartime in antiquity." In *The Ethics of Aging in Graeco-Roman Antiquity and Beyond*. Edited by Albertina Oegema and Ruben Zimmermann. Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament. Mohr Siebeck (under review).

- 5 Scales, Joseph. "Peleg, House of." In *Brill's Encyclopedia of the Dead Sea Scrolls*. Edited by Sidnie White Crawford, Lawrence H. Schiffman and James C. VanderKam. Brill (submitted).

- 6 Scales, Joseph. "Apocryphon of Ezekiel/Apocrypha Attributed to Ezekiel." Pages 428–440 in *T&T Clark Handbook of Hellenistic Jewish Literature in Greek*. Edited by Marieke Dhont. T&T Clark, 2025.

- 7 Scales, Joseph. "Place, Space (Second Temple and Hellenistic Judaism)." Pages 814–816 in *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*. Vol. 24. De Gruyter, 2025.

- 8 Scales, Joseph and Laura Quick. "The Emergence of Submergence: Evidence and Frameworks for Women's Bathing Rituals in Ancient Judaism." Pages 175–191 in *Bloomsbury Handbook on Gender, Sexuality, and Religion in the Ancient Near East*. Edited by Shawna Dolansky and Sarah Shectman. Bloomsbury, 2025.

- 9 Scales, Joseph. "The Limits of Evidence: The *Miqveh* as an Indicator of Jewish Purity Practices in Second Temple Period Galilee." Pages 131–151 in *Purity in Ancient Judaism: Text, Contexts, and Concepts*. Edited by Lutz Doering, Jörg Frey, and Laura von Bartenwerffer. Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament 528. Mohr Siebeck, 2025.

- 10 Comerford, Charlie and Joseph Scales. "Categories and Boundaries Special Issue Introduction." In *Advances in Ancient, Biblical, and Near Eastern Research* 2.2 (2022): 1–9.

Database entries:

Database of Religious History The Book of Judith; Synagogue at Gamla; Synagogue at Magdala

Academic Service:

2024– Norsk gammeltestamentlig selskap, steering committee member.
 2023–29 Society for Old Testament Study, treasurer.
 2018–20, 2024– Second Temple Early Careers Academy (STECA), co-director since 2025.
 2018–20 University of Birmingham's postgraduate Theology and Religion seminar, founding member.
 2018–20 Academic peer-mentor, School of Philosophy, Theology and Religion, University of Birmingham.
 2018 Kh. el-'Eika, summer season (square supervisor).

- 2016 Kh. el-'Eika, summer season volunteer.
 2015–16 Learning Community Forum Chair, University of Nottingham.
 2015–16 Residential Tutor, Cripps Hall, University of Nottingham.

Invited Presentations:

- 22/11/26 “Review panel session for Katharine Fitzgerald, *Women in Greco-Roman Jewish Novels*.” – Ancient Fiction and Early Jewish and Christian Narrative panel, SBL.
 21/01/26 “No pity was shown for age: Vulnerable groups in ancient Jewish war narratives as victims and victimizers.” – The Ancient Peace Studies Network: Inaugural Workshop, University of St Andrews.
 28/11/25 “Book launch for *Co-texts and Contexts in the Book of Jonah* by Marian Kelsey: Response” – Centre for Philosophy, Theology and Religion, University of Nottingham.
 27/5/25 “Jewish representations and realities of being elderly during wartime in antiquity.” – The Ethics of Aging in Graeco-Roman Antiquity and Beyond, Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz.
 17/3/25 “Gathering strength, swarming over, falling down: Embodied Military Movement in First Maccabees and Josephus’ *War*.” – Aarhus University, Project presentation for ANINAN: An Intersectional Analysis of Ancient Jewish Travel Narratives.
 17/9/24 “Judith’s Murder Mystery.” – MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society, Centre for the Advanced Study of Religion Brown bag seminar.
 21/9/22 “A Textual Frankenstein: The Apocryphon of Ezekiel as an Exquisite Corpse.” – Radboud University, Bible seminar.
 27/6/22 “A Textual Frankenstein: The Apocryphon of Ezekiel as an Exquisite Corpse.” – UiA, invited research presentation.
 17/6/22 “Gender and Space, Material Culture and Ritual: Methods for Reading Ancient Lives.” – Space, Stuff and Sacrality: Everyday Engagements with Religion in Society [Keynote].
 10/1/22 “Women and Elders in Late Second Temple Judaism.” – Studies in Second Temple Judaism: A Global Enterprise.
 11/5/21 “Before the Synagogue? The Emergence of Jewish Communal Spaces in 1st Century CE Galilee.” – Oxford Seminar on Jewish History and Literature in the Graeco-Roman Period.
 21/11/19 “An Approach toward De-categorising Judaism and Hellenism.” – Fuller Theological Seminary’s Hebrew Bible / Old Testament Doctoral Colloquium.
 10/2/19 “Jewish Purity in the Land of Galilee.” – 10th Schwerte Qumrantagung.

Presented Papers:

- 21/7/26 “Sons of Darkness, Children of Light: The relationship between enemy characterisation and identity creation in ancient Jewish war speeches.” – Race, Ethnicity, and Identity in the Bible and the Ancient Mediterranean, EABS.
 29/7/24 “Fighting Talk: Ancient Jewish Pre-battle Speeches as Ritual Performances.” – Ritual in the Biblical World, ISBL.
 6/6/24 “Fighting Talk: Ancient Jewish Pre-battle Speeches as Ritual Performances.” – Rhetoric and Warfare Conference.
 21/2/24 “Fighting Talk: Motivating Violence in Ancient Judaism.” – Radboud University, Bible seminar.
 18/10/23 “‘Be strong and courageous as warriors’ - Fighting Talk in the War Scroll.” – Birmingham Biblical Studies Seminar.
 6/10/21 “Susanna and Callirhoe: Law and Bodies.” – Birmingham Biblical Studies Seminar.

- 1/4/21 “Necromantle: Divine Embodiment in 1 Samuel 28:13–14.” – Divine Bodies, co-presentation with Ellena Lyell.
- 25/11/19 “Bathing Jewish, Bathing Greek.” – Hellenistic Judaism, SBL.
- 2/8/18 “The Construction and Demarcation of Sacred Space.” – Place, Space, and Identity in the Ancient Mediterranean World, ISBL.
- 5/6/18 “Galilee and the Gentiles: Cultural Boundaries between Galilee and Its Neighbours from the Second Century BCE to the First Jewish Revolt.” – Borders and Boundaries in Ancient Israel.
- 24/3/18 “Embodied Space in Galilean Settlements.” – EABS Graduate Symposium.

Departmental and ad hoc presentations at UiB:

- 11/06/26 “Sons of Darkness, Children of Light: The relationship between enemy characterisation and identity creation in ancient Jewish war speeches.” – Forskningsgruppe Litteratur og religion.
- 28/04/26 “Analysing violent variations in ancient Jewish narrative.” – Institutt for fremmedspråk lunjseminarer.
- 04/02/26 “Analysing violent variations in ancient Jewish narrative.” – Den Antikke Verden seminarrekken.

Departmental and ad hoc presentations at UiA:

- 03/03/26 “Analysing violent variations in ancient Jewish narrative.” – DeadSearious Seminars.
- 24/11/25 “On violence without meaning and the meaning of violence (in biblical studies).” – ÅRSBL.
- 28/8/25 “Hellenism and the Dead Sea Scrolls: Between and beyond cultural influence.” – Manuscripts, Material Philology, and the Next Phase Symposium.
- 12/8/25 “Fighting Talk project review.” – ad hoc presentation.
- 19/5/25 “Jewish representations and realities of being elderly during wartime in antiquity.” – ad hoc presentation.
- 8/4/25 “Fighting Talk manuscript review.” – Holy Scriptures and Authoritative Texts Forum.
- 17/2/25 “Did the Romans Think the Jews Wore Trousers?” – ad hoc presentation.
- 16/12/24 “An army is how it moves.” – ad hoc presentation.
- 26/11/24 “The Princeton Dead Sea Scrolls series: a review of a recent volume.” – ad hoc presentation.
- 21/10/24 “Hordes of Belial: Creating enemies in pre-battle speeches.” – Lying Pen Symposium.
- 8/10/24 “Listen to me! Pre-battle speakers.” – Holy Scriptures and Authoritative Texts Forum.
- 27/2/24 “Methods for Approaching Battle Exhortations.” – Holy Scriptures and Authoritative Texts Forum.
- 16/2/24 “Galilean Spaces of Identity: book overview.” – PAMfilius Seminar.
- 7/11/23 “Judith’s Pre-Battle Speeches.” – Holy Scriptures and Authoritative Texts Forum.
- 18/10/23 “Be strong and courageous as warriors’ - Fighting Talk in the War Scroll.” – Lying Pen Symposium.
- 25/8/23 “Fighting Talk: Motivating Violence in Ancient Judaism.” – PAMfilius Seminar.

Academic mentorship talks:

- 11/11/25 “Joseph on Josephus: Introduction to Flavius Josephus” – STECA bootcamp workshops.
- 05/11/25 “Academic Networking” – Birmingham Biblical Seminar.
- 30/10/24 “(Academic) life after the PhD” – UiA Hum-Ped PhD Seminar.

Conferences Organised:

- 1 Warfare and Rhetoric in the Ancient World (Horizon Europe) – 5th-7th June 2024.
- 2 The Dead Sea Scrolls as a Scholarly Phenomenon (Research Council of Norway grant for c. £13,500) – 12th-14th December 2022.
- 3 Categories and Boundaries in Second Temple Jewish Literature (AHRC grant for c. £6000) – 4th-5th March 2021 (Online).
- 4 Borders and Boundaries in Ancient Israel (AHRC grant for c. £7800) – 5th-6th June 2018.

Invited Book Reviews:

<i>Review of Biblical Literature</i>	Witte, M., J. Schröter, and V. Lepper, eds., <i>Torah, Temple, Land</i> (2021).
<i>Revue de Qumrân</i>	Gurtner, D.M., and L.T. Stuckenbruck, eds., <i>Second Temple Judaism in Scholarly Perspective</i> (2025).

Book Reviews:

Ancient Jew Review	Edwards, D., <i>Court of the Gentiles</i> (2023); Gordon, B., <i>Land and Temple</i> (2020); Krause, A., <i>Synagogues in Josephus</i> (2017); Van Maaren, J., <i>Boundaries of Jewishness</i> (2022).
Enoch Seminar Online	Ben-Eliyahu, E., <i>Identity and Territory</i> (2019); Berthelot, K., <i>In Search of the Promised Land</i> (2017).
<i>Journal for the Study of Judaism</i>	Bonnie, R., R. Hakola, and U. Tervahauta, eds., <i>Synagogue in Ancient Palestine</i> (2021); Doering, L., and A. Krause, eds., <i>Synagogues in the Hellenistic and Roman Periods</i> (2020).
<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>	Adams, S., and Z. Domoney-Lyttle, eds., <i>Philo Scripture Index</i> (2023); Aksu, A., <i>Collecting Practices and Opisthographic Collections</i> (2024); Atkinson, K., P. Pouchelle, and F. Albrecht, eds., <i>Psalms of Solomon</i> (2023); Berlin, A., and P. Kosmin, eds., <i>Middle Maccabees</i> (2021); Candido, D., R. Egger-Wenzel, and S. Reif, eds., <i>What Makes a People</i> (2023); Charlesworth, J., <i>Dead Sea Scrolls Vol. 5B</i> (2024); Chazon, E., et al., eds., <i>Dead Sea Scrolls at Seventy</i> (2025); Collinet, B.J., and F. Ueberschaer, eds., <i>Jew-Hatred in the Second Temple Period</i> (2025); Cook, J., W. Kraus, and M. Rösel, eds., <i>Septuagint Theology and Its Reception</i> (2024); Cover, M., <i>Change of Names</i> (2024); Czajkowski, K., and D. Friedman, eds., <i>Looking In, Looking Out</i> (2024); Darby, J., <i>Shaping Text through Song</i> (2026); Ehorn, S., <i>2 Maccabees: 1–7</i> (2020); idem., <i>2 Maccabees 8–15</i> (2022); Feldman, L., <i>Story of Sacrifice</i> (2022); Garroway, K.H., H. Chul Paul Kim, and J. Martens, eds., <i>Violence against Women and Children in the HB</i> (2024); Grabbe, L., <i>History of Jews and Judaism Vol. 3</i> (2020); Hartog, P., and A. Perrin, eds., <i>Dead Sea Scrolls</i> (2023); Henze, M., and L.I. Lied, eds., <i>Old Testament Pseudepigrapha</i> (2019); Jassen, A.P., <i>Violence, Power, and Society</i> (2025); Korytko, J., <i>Death of the Covenant Code</i> (2023); Lichtenberger, A., and O. Tal, <i>Hellenistic Nysa-Scythopolis I</i> (2025); Mendels, D., <i>Hellenistic Inter-State Political Ethics</i> (2021); Mizzi, D., T. Rassalle, and M. Grey, eds., <i>Pushing Sacred Boundaries</i> (2023);

Muraoka, T., *Wisdom of Ben Sira* (2023); Palmer, C., *Converts in the Dead Sea Scrolls* (2018); Quick, L., and M. Ramos, eds., *New Perspectives on Ritual* (2022); Seland, T., *Reimagining Philo* (2025); Spinazzi-Lucchesi, C., *Threads of Contact* (2025); Szántó, Z., *Jews of Ptolemaic Egypt* (2024); Vanonen, H., *War Traditions* (2022); Wills, L.M., *Feminized Hero* (2025); Wills, L.M., *Introduction to the Apocrypha* (2021).

NTT Journal for Theology and the Study of Religion	Mason, S., <i>Judean War 4</i> (2022).
Reading Religion	Adler, Y., <i>Origins of Judaism</i> (2022); Kreuzer, S., eds., <i>Introduction to the Septuagint</i> (2019); VanderKam, J., <i>Introduction to Early Judaism</i> (2022).
Rhea Classical Reviews	Maurais, J., <i>Characterizing Old Greek Deuteronomy</i> (2022); Ramos, M., <i>Ritual in Deuteronomy</i> (2021).
Rosetta Book Reviews	Safrai, Z., <i>Seeking out the Land</i> (2018).

Public Scholarship:

- 1 Book presentation for The Bible and Interpretation – [Spaces of ancient Galilee: How Judaism created Galilee and Galilee created Judaism in the time of the Hasmonians | Bible Interp](#)
- 1 Dissertation Spotlight at Ancient Jew Review – <https://www.ancientjewreview.com/articles/2021/6/1/dissertation-spotlight-religious-identity-and-spatiality-in-hasmonian-and-herodian-galilee>
- 2 Script writing for Excavating the History of the Bible – <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLRnXSS4SzUG66tF70EKGgzIV2B5-qnXmj>
- 3 Online post for the Second Temple Early Careers Academy – <https://secondtempleearlycareeracademy.wordpress.com/2018/04/12/applying-for-doctoral-funding-in-the-uk-the-arts-and-humanities-research-council-as-a-case-study/>
- 4 Guest on the Visualising War and Peace, New Testament Review, Hellenistic Age, American Prestige, It Means What It Means, and New Books in Jewish Studies podcasts.

Podcast Work:

Producer and interviewer for Ancient Afterlives Podcast – <https://anchor.fm/ancientafterlives>

Producer and host for Gods & Moviemakers Podcast – <https://shows.acast.com/godsandmoviemakers>

Teaching and Examination Experience:

- 2026 University of Bergen modules:
1. *Religionsvitenskap*, graduate level, examiner
- 2022–2023 University of London modules:
1. *Reading the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament*, undergraduate level tutor and examiner
 2. *Sacrifice, Praise and Wisdom*, undergraduate level tutor and examiner
 3. *Reading the New Testament*, undergraduate level examiner
 4. *New Testament Theology, Christology, Salvation and Last Things*, undergraduate level examiner

- 2021 The Brilliant Club, English GCSE tutor
2019 Realising Opportunities, A-Level student tutor.
2018–2020 University of Birmingham modules:
1. *The Bible and Sacred Space*, graduate level, seminar tutor
2. *Introduction to Greek and Roman History*, undergraduate level, seminar tutor
3. *Understanding Ancient Societies*, undergraduate level, seminar tutor
2018–2019 Access to Birmingham, A-Level student tutor.

Professional Memberships

- Early Career Research Associate, Institute of Classical Studies (2022–2023)
- Associate Fellowship of Higher Education Authority (HEA)
- Society for Old Testament Study (SOTS)
- Norsk gammeltestamentlig selskap (NGTS)
- European Association of Biblical Studies (EABS)
- Ancient Peace Studies Network
- International Society for the Study of Deuterocanonical and Cognate Literature (ISDCL)