

SPENCER LOREN ALLEN, Ph.D.

203 Old Main
Fayetteville, AR 72701
(479) 903-0481
allensl@uark.edu

EDUCATION

- 2011** University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
Ph. D., Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (*Hebrew Bible and Assyriology*)
- 2001-2002** The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel
Visiting Student, Rothberg International School (*The Bible and its World*)
- 2001** Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA
Masters of Theological Studies (M.T.S.), Harvard Divinity School (*Scripture and Interpretation*)
- 1999** Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas, USA
B.A. Psychology (*Magna Cum Laude with departmental distinction; minor in Religious Studies*)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2020-2025** **Instructor of International Relations, International and Global Studies
Fulbright College, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR**
- 2018-2019** **Adjunct, Fulbright College, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR**
- 2015-2018** **Adjunct, Middle Eastern Studies, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR**
Courses taught at **University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR:**
The Bible and the Koran: Characters Common to Islam, Christianity, and Judaism
The Apostle Paul and His Legacy
Early Christian History (the First 300 years), AKA History of Christianity
Women of the Bible, AKA Women of Biblical Tradition
The Rise of Monotheism
Introduction to Christianity (to the present)
Hebrew Language and Literature (I and II) and Readings in Biblical Hebrew
Introduction to Middle East Studies
Introduction to the New Testament
Historical Geography of Jerusalem: From the Amarna Period to the Ottoman Empire
Introduction to Judaism
Geography of Religion
Methodologies in International Studies: Research and Design
Introduction to International and Global Studies
Honors-Humanities Project (H²P1)
Introduction to Biblical Aramaic
Sumerian: Cuneiform and Syntax
- 2013-present** **Anonymous Reviewer: The Journal of Religion and Popular Culture (U of Toronto Press)**
- 2013-2018** **Theologian-in-Residence: First Presbyterian Church, Rogers, AR**
With an emphasis on adult education regarding the critical study of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and New Testament, I lead a weekly text-based seminar that primarily serves the congregation.
- 2012** **Adjunct Instructor: Division of Biblical Studies, John Brown University, Siloam Springs, AR**
Taught general education courses within the Division of Biblical Studies.

Professional Experience (*continued*)

- 2008-2009** **Visiting Scholar: King Fahd Center for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR**
Courses taught: Introduction to the New Testament; Early Christian History; Historical Geography of Jerusalem; Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament; The Bible and the Koran; Goddesses and Women of Pre-Islamic Mesopotamia; Searching for the Historical Paul and Jesus
- 2007-2008** **Critical Writing Fellow: University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA**
Course taught: *The Bible in Popular Music* – Designed and taught two units of a freshman writing seminar with topics taken from biblical allusions in music.

PUBLICATIONS**Books**

- In Preparation** *TheoGenetics: An Examination of Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Vedic, Biblical, and Classical divine births and complications.* (proposal in process)
- Israelite Antagonism, Samaritan Superiority, and the Judahite Rejoinder: The Interaction of Religion and Geopolitics of Israel in the Iron Age.* (proposal in process)
- 2015** *The Splintered Divine: A Study of Ištar, Baal, and Yahweh Divine Names and Divine Multiplicity in the Ancient Near East.* Studies in Ancient Near Eastern Records (SANER) 5. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2015. (paperback edition, 2017)

Articles (refereed)

- In Press** “Incomplete Ištar Assimilation: Reconsidering the Goddess's Divine History in light of a Madonnine Analogy.” In *What’s in a Divine Name? Religious Systems and Human Agency in the ancient Mediterranean Workshop (Toulouse, 25-28 October 2022)*. Edited by Corinne Bonnet, ERC Mapping Ancient Polytheisms (<https://map-polytheisms.huma-num.fr/>)
- In Preparation** “Geographic Epithets and Mythical Homelands: Extrapolating from Mount Zaphon.” (in preparation for the European Commission’s Community Research and Development Information Service; anticipated submission date June 2022)
- “Another Foreign Word in Ezra 7:13–26? *daena* as an Iranian Loan Word into Aramaic.” (in preparation for *Vetus Testamentum*; anticipated submission date August 2022)
- “Rearranging the Curses in Esarhaddon’s Succession Treaty: A look to the West.” (in preparation for *Die Welt des Orients*; anticipated submission date August 2022)
- 2019** “A Rebel by Any Other Name: The Onomastics of Disney’s *Star Wars Rebels*.” *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture: Star Wars and Religion* 31 (2019):72-86.
- 2017** “Tony Alamo Christian Ministries (TACM).” World Religions and Spirituality (WRSP). Accessible at <https://wrlldrels.org/2017/06/04/tony-alamo-christian-ministries-tacm/>
- 2014** “The Anomaly of Tony Alamo Christian Ministries: A New Testament-Based Call for Christian Polygamy.” *Nova Religio: Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* 17 (2014):61-82.
- “There’s a New World Coming: The Eschatology of *Wrecking Ball*.” *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture* 26 (2014): 202-214.
- 2013** “An Examination of Northwest Semitic Divine Names and the *Bet*-locative.” *Journal for the Evangelical Study of the Old Testament* 2 (2013): 61-82.

Articles (continued)

- 2013** "Rearranging the Gods in Esarhaddon's Succession Treaty." *Die Welt des Orients* 43 (2013): 1-24.
- 2012** "Aššur and Enlil in Neo-Assyrian Documents." Pages 397-409 in *Organization, Representation, and Symbols of Power in the Ancient Near East Proceedings of the 54th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale at Würzburg 20–25 July 2008*. Edited by Gernot Wilhelm. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2012.
- 2008** "Understanding Amos 6:12 in Light of his other Rhetorical Questions." *Vetus Testamentum* 58 (2008): 437-448.

Book Reviews

- In Press** "Gods and Humans in the Ancient Near East. By Tyson L. Putthoff." *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* (2022).
- 2016** "The Divine Image: Prophetic Aniconic Rhetoric and Its Contribution to the Aniconism Debate, Jill Middlemas." *Near Eastern Archaeology* 79.2 (2016): 100-101.
- 2015** "A Foreign Kingdom: Mormons and Polygamy in American Political Culture, 1852-1890, Christine Talbot." *Nova Religio* 19.1 (2015): 101-102.
- "Gods in Dwellings: Temples and Divine Presence in the Ancient Near East, Michael Hundley." *Journal of Religion* 95.2 (2015): 253-255.
- "The God Resheph in the Ancient Near East by Maciej M. Münnich." *Near Eastern Archaeology* 78.1 (2015): 54-55.
- "Judah in the Neo-Babylonian Period: The Archaeology of Desolation by Faust, Avraham." *Journal of Religion* 95.1 (2015): 122-124.
- "Poetic Heroes: Literary Commemorations of Warrior and Warrior Culture in the Early Biblical Period, Mark S. Smith." *History of Religions* 55.2 (2015): 236-238.
- 2014** "Inheriting Abraham: The Legacy of the Patriarch in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam by Levenson, Jon D." *Journal of Religion* 94.4 (2014): 532-533.
- 2013** "The Legacy of Israel in Judah's Bible: History, Politics, and the Reinscribing of Tradition, Daniel Fleming." *Journal for the Evangelical Study of the Old Testament* 2 (2013): 126-129.
- 2012** "Saints Under Siege: The Texas State Raid on the Fundamentalist Latter Day Saints, edited by Stuart A. Wright and James T. Richardson." *International Journal for the Study of New Religions* 3 (2012): 117-122.
- "Shadow on the Steps: Time Measurement in Ancient Israel, David Miano." *Review of Biblical Literature*, March 2012: 1-7.

Reference Articles

- 2011** “Cultures of Anatolia, 4000-1000 BCE.” Pages 448-452 in vol. 4 of *World History Encyclopedia: Era 2: Early Civilizations, 4000-1000 BCE*. Edited by Alfred J. Andrea. 20 vols. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2011.
- “Early Ancient Israelite Poetry before 900 BCE.” Pages 673-675 in vol. 4 of *World History Encyclopedia: Era 2: Early Civilizations, 4000-1000 BCE*. Edited by Alfred J. Andrea. 20 vols. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2011.
- “Hittite Law.” Pages 165-166 in vol. 3 of *World History Encyclopedia: Era 2: Early Civilizations, 4000-1000 BCE*. Edited by Alfred J. Andrea. 20 vols. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2011.
- “Hittite Literature.” Pages 663-664 in vol. 4 of *World History Encyclopedia: Era 2: Early Civilizations, 4000-1000 BCE*. Edited by Alfred J. Andrea. 20 vols. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2011.
- “Hittite Political History in the Second Millennium.” Pages 446-448 in vol. 4 of *World History Encyclopedia: Era 2: Early Civilizations, 4000-1000 BCE*. Edited by Alfred J. Andrea. 20 vols. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2011.
- “Jews under Ottoman Rule.” Pages 906-907 in vol. 16 of *World History Encyclopedia: Era 7: The Age of the Revolutions, 1750-1914*. Edited by Alfred J. Andrea. 20 vols. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2011.
- “Marriage and Divorce in the Ancient Near East.” Pages 143-144 in vol. 2. in *World History Encyclopedia: Era 2: Early Civilizations, 4000-1000 BCE*. Edited by Alfred J. Andrea. 20 vols. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2011.
- “Political History of the Early Dynastic Period.” Pages 4337-438 in vol. 4 of *World History Encyclopedia: Era 2: Early Civilizations, 4000-1000 BCE*. Edited by Alfred J. Andrea. 20 vols. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2011.
- “The Red Sea.” Pages 364-365 in vol. 3 of *World History Encyclopedia: Era 2: Early Civilizations, 4000-1000 BCE*. Edited by Alfred J. Andrea. 20 vols. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2011.

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

- 2017** *A Rebel by Any Other Name: The Onomastics of Disney’s Star Wars Rebels*. Southwest Commission on Religious Studies Annual Meeting, Irving, TX, March 11.
- 2016** Madonnine Multiplicity: Reconceptualizing the Mesopotamian Ishtar by Analogy. Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 19.
- The Rise of the Benton County Interfaith Alliance*. Southwest Commission on Religious Studies Annual Meeting, Irving, TX, March 13.
- 2015** *Ishtar-of-Arbela’s Mythological, Mystical, and Prophetic Independence from Ishtar-of-Nineveh*. Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 21.
- Logos and LEGOs: Everything’s Not Awesome: The Brick Bible Controversy*. Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 22.
- 2013** *Geographic Epithets and Mythical Homelands*. Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, November 24.

Conference Presentations (continued)

- 2013** *Religio-political Motives behind the Divine Name Yahweh-of-Teman at Kuntillet 'Ajrud.* Southwest Commission on Religious Studies Annual Meeting, Irving, TX, March 9.
- 2012** *Rearranging the Curses and Gods in Esarhaddon's Succession Treaty.* Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 19.
- There's a New World Coming: The Eschatology of Wrecking Ball.* Glory Days: A Bruce Springsteen Symposium, Monmouth University, West Long Branch, NJ, September 15.
- An Examination of Northwest Semitic Divine Names and the Bet-locative.* Southwest Commission on Religious Studies Annual Meeting, Irving, TX, March 11.
- 2011** *Tony Alamo and his New Testament Brand of Christian Polygyny.* Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, CA, November 20.
- "The Many Wives of the Holy Men of God": An Examination of Tony Alamo's Brand of Biblical Exegesis.* Southwest Commission on Religious Studies, Irving, TX, March 5.
- 2010** *Aššur and Enlil: Typology and Assyrian Theology.* Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 22.
- 2009** *The Bible's "Hard Headed Women."* Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, November 21.
- 2008** *Another Persian Word in Ezra 7:13–26?* Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, November 25.
- Using Sargonid God Lists to Evaluate the Neo-Assyrian Pantheon.* Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, November 24.
- The State of the Pantheon: Evidence from the Sargonid Period God Lists.* American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, November 20.
- Aššur and Enlil in Neo-Assyrian Documents.* 54. Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, Würzburg, Germany, July 25.
- The Ištar of Hammurabi's Prologue: The Issue of Divine Multiplicity.* The Mid-Atlantic Region Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature, New Brunswick, NJ, March 28.
- 2005** *Understanding Amos 6:12 in light of his other Rhetorical Questions.* Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, November 21.
- Bruce Springsteen and the Puritan Ideal of the Promised Land.* Glory Days: A Bruce Springsteen Symposium, Monmouth University, West Long Branch, NJ, September 9.

Public Lectures/Invited Presentations

- 2022** *One vs. many and "bricolage."* Panelist at *What's in a Divine Name? Religious Systems and Human Agency in the Ancient Mediterranean Workshop (Toulouse, 25-28 October 2022)*, Université Toulouse, France, October 26.
- 2018** *Maryam in the Quran and the Bible.* Muslima of UARK RSO, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, April 18.
- 2017** *Considering the Effects of the Benton County Interfaith Alliance on Muslim Outreach.* Rogers Kiwanis Club, Rogers, AR, June 28.

Public Lectures/Invited Presentations (continued)

- 2013** *INANNA/Ishtar: A Borderline Personality and Broken Boundaries*. Harvard Semitic Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, April 17.
- Adapa and the South Wind: A Mesopotamian Forerunner to M. Night Shyamalan's The Sixth Sense?* Divinity Hall, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, April 17.
- 2009** *The Historian on the Road to Damascus: Comparing Acts 9, 22, and 26 with Galatians 1*. University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, November 6.
- 2008** *Venus, Ištar of Nineveh, and the Queen of the Night: Distinguishing the Goddesses from Neo-Assyrian God Lists*. The Eta Sigma Phi Society, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, November 10.
- 2007** *Exodus and Archaeology: Exploring the Plausibility of the Exodus, Wilderness, and Conquest*. Steinhart Hillel, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, April 10.
- 2006** *The Warring, Worshiping, and Hallucinating Abraham: Genesis 14-15*. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, February 16.
- 2004** *Finding Bill Clinton in the Bible: A Typological Analysis of I and II Samuel*. The Judah Goldin Seminar, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, November 3.

Community Involvement

- 2016-present** **Instructor: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR.** More than 20 courses offered ranging from ancient Near Eastern history to biblical interpretation, including: "Who Wrote the Four Gospels and for Whom?"; "Who Wrote the Books of Moses?"; "Gnostic Mythology"; "Defending Saint Paul"; "The Bible and the Quran"; "The Infancy Gospel of James"; "Israelite History according to its Neighbors," and "Babylonian Mythology."
- 2016-2019** **Board Member: UofA Welsey College Ministry, Fayetteville, AR.** Served on both the finance committee and the personnel committee.
- 2015-present** **Participant: Benton County Interfaith Alliance (BCIA).** Speaker at the BCIA 2015 Thanksgiving Celebration. Organizer of Education Committee's lecture "How Ritual Guides our Daily and Religious Lives."

HONORS/AWARDS

- 2019** "Favorite Instructor 2018," Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), University of Arkansas.
- 2018** "Favorite Instructor 2017," Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), University of Arkansas.
- 2010** Abraham M. Ellis Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania.
GAPSA Professional Student Travel Grant, University of Pennsylvania, and SAS Travel Subvention, University of Pennsylvania, for Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- 2009** GAPSA Professional Student Travel Grant, University of Pennsylvania, and SAS Travel Subvention, University of Pennsylvania, for Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

HONORS/AWARDS (continued)

- 2008** GAPSA Professional Student Travel Grant, University of Pennsylvania, and SAS Travel Subvention, University of Pennsylvania, for 54. Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, Würzburg, Germany.
- 2007-2008** Critical Writing (“Chimicles”) Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania.
- 2005** SAS Travel Subvention, University of Pennsylvania, for Glory Days: A Bruce Springsteen Symposium, Monmouth University, West Long Branch, NJ.
- 2002-2007** William Penn Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania.
- 2002** Summer fellowship to Universität Wien for German Studies, Österreichisches Kulturforum (Austrian Cultural Forum) at the Hebrew University.
- 2001-2002** Harvard-Hebrew University Fellowship, Harvard and Hebrew Universities.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- 2005-present** Society of Biblical Literature

LANGUAGES

Ancient: Hebrew, Akkadian, Ugaritic, Aramaic, Phoenician, Punic, Neo-Punic, Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Deir ‘Alla, Sumerian, Greek

Modern: German, French

December 20, 2021