



OBSA2017

RECHARGE, RECHART AND RECHANCE

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 2017 gathering is an opportunity to assess, energize, navigate and sanction biblical studies in Oceania, mindful of the struggles with the occupation of island nations and the concern for solidarity and cooperation between island groups and peoples. In those interests, we invite papers/presentations within the currents of the streams (on methodology; on scriptures; on practices) of OBSA:

Pacific ways: Occupation and solidarity

How might natives in occupied lands read the Bible? And how might people in neighboring nations read the Bible? Presenters are invited to address ways in which islanders may engage with the ongoing political occupation of islands like West Papua, Kanak, Maohi Nui, Futuna, Rapa Nui, Guam, Tutuila and Tokelau. Presenters are expected to also showcase their “pacific ways” of reading with actual readings of biblical texts of their choice.

Sea of readings: Book of Numbers

Presenters are to select a passage from the book of Numbers in which they find evidence of the struggles with occupation (of other people’s land) and/or the concern for solidarity and cooperation (between natives and neighbors). Offer a reading(s) of that passage in which you also explore how the book of Numbers endorse or discourage occupation. Furthermore, how does the book of Numbers represent solidarity and cooperation between natives?

Grounding islands: reCharting the Public Square

Option 1

Presenters are invited to engage the bible in the public square with attention to issues such as homelessness, sexuality & gender justice, climate justice, refugees & migration, modern slavery & exploitation, domestic violence & youth suicide, racism & cultural discrimination, religious intolerance & religious fundamentalism, neoliberalism & neocolonialism, and so forth. How relevant is our interpretation to public life? How might we read the bible in the light of what is going on around us? What adjustments do we need to make for the sake of offering some positive contributions to society? Have we been reading the bible upside down?

Option 2

Presenters are invited to engage the views, challenges and invitations in Tevita K. Havea’s “An Alternative Passage on Familiar Waters” presented at the 10th General Assembly of the Pacific Conference of Churches (1-10 Mar 2013, Honiara, Solomon Is -- follow this link to the paper). What is your assessment of Tevita’s alternative passages? How might you supplement and/or strengthen the work toward ecumenism?

Send your proposal (title & abstract, up to 300 words) to obsamail@gmail.com by **28 February 2017**. Further updates on OBSA 2017, when available from the steering crew, will be posted online at <https://sites.google.com/site/wavesofthemoana/about-obsa>