

Seth Sanders

This year's research for the West Semitic Political Lexicon project produced three conference presentations, two journal articles, and plans for conference sessions and a special journal issue.

The project's investigation of the historical development of political discourse in West Semitic languages led to presentations at the American Anthropological Association in Chicago ("A Philology of Words and Things"), the Society of Biblical Literature ("Placing Scribal Culture in History: Deuteronomy and Late Iron-Age Text Production"), and an invited workshop at the University of Zürich ("Levantine Religion/s in the Iron Age II: The Epigraphic Perspective"). The results of the latter will be published in a special issue of *Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel*, and a second article, "Absalom's Audience (2 Sam 15–19)" is under review at the *Journal of Biblical Literature*.

Finally, a set of special sessions on "How to Build a (Long-term) Text in the Ancient Near East" is being planned for the American Oriental Society meeting and a special issue of the *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions*. One of the most richly documented areas of written ancient Near Eastern culture is the creation and transmission of long-lived culturally central texts, from the Egyptian Pyramid texts and book(s) of the Dead to the Epic of Gilgamesh. Yet despite a treasure trove of data and studies, the basic patterns and historical trends have never even been surveyed by experts, let alone theorized. These sessions aim to do that. Among an international set of participants, invited scholars from the Oriental Institute include John Wee, Christopher Woods, Foy Scalf, and Theo van den Hout.
