

CYNTHIA L. MILLER

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Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies
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Professor Miller specializes in the syntax and pragmatics of Classical Hebrew and the related Northwest Semitic languages. She is particularly interested in moving the field of traditional Semitic philology to an understanding of, and appreciation for, contemporary linguistic approaches to the study of ancient texts. She received her Ph.D. with honors in 1992 from the University of Chicago in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and the Department of Linguistics (joint degree).

Professor Miller teaches an undergraduate course each fall entitled “Biblical Poetry in Translation” (HEB 237). In the graduate program she teaches advanced courses in Biblical Hebrew and seminars on Biblical poetry, Biblical narrative, and linguistic approaches to Biblical Hebrew. She also teaches the Northwest Semitic languages in a three-year cycle:

2004–2005 Canaanite Inscriptions (Hebrew, Moabite, Phoenician, etc.) and Ugaritic
2005–2006 Aramaic (Old, Imperial, Biblical, Targumic)
2006–2007 Syriac

PUBLICATIONS

Books

in prep. *Elliptical Structures in Biblical Hebrew* [tentative title].
1999 (editor) *The Verbless Clause in Biblical Hebrew: Linguistic Approaches*.
 Linguistic Studies in Ancient West Semitic, 1. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns.
1996 *The Representation of Speech in Biblical Hebrew Narrative: A Linguistic*
 Analysis. Harvard Semitic Monographs, 55. Atlanta: Scholars Press. Reprinted
 with an “Afterword,” 2003.

Articles

f.c. “Ellipsis involving Negation in Biblical Poetry,” in *Seeking out the Wisdom of the*
 Ancients [Michael V. Fox Festschrift], edited by Ronald L. Troxel, Kelvin G.
 Friebel, Dennis R. Magary (Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns).
f.c. “Linguistics” in *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Historical Books*, edited by Bill
 T. Arnold and Hugh Williamson (InterVarsity Press).
f.c. “Variation of Direct Speech Complementizers in Achaemenid Aramaic
 Documents from Fifth Century B.C.E. Egypt.” In Thomas D. Cravens, ed.,
 Variation and Reconstruction. Current Issues in Linguistic Theory. Amsterdam:
 Benjamins.

- f.c. "Between Form and Meaning: Translating Biblical Proverbs in African Cultures" *The Bible Translator: Technical Papers*.
- f.c. "Evidentiality and Mirativity in Shilluk." Proceedings of the 8th International Nilo-Saharan Linguistics Colloquium. Edited by Mechthild Reh and Doris L. Payne. Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe.
- 2004 "Methodological Issues in Reconstructing a Language System from Epigraphic Fragments." In James K. Hoffmeier and Alan Millard, ed., *The Future of Biblical Archaeology: Reassessing Methods and Assumptions* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans), 281-305.
- 2003 "Afterword" (pp. 409-32) for reprinting of *The Representation of Speech in Biblical Hebrew Narrative: A Linguistic Analysis*.
- 2003 "A Linguistic Approach to Ellipsis in Biblical Poetry: Or, What to Do When Exegesis of What is There Depends on What Isn't." *Bulletin of Biblical Research* 13, 251-70.
- 2003 Response to Stephen B. Chapman's paper, "The Old Testament Canon and its Authority for the Christian Church," *Ex Auditu* 19, 149-52.
- 2001 "Evidence for Ergativity in Shilluk," co-authored with Leoma G. Gilley. *Journal of African Languages and Linguistics* 22, 33-68.
- 1999-2000 "Patterns of Verbal Ellipsis in Ugaritic." *Ugarit-Forschungen* 31, 333-72.
- 1999 "The Pragmatics of *waw* as a Discourse Marker in Biblical Hebrew Dialogue." *Zeitschrift für Althebraistik* 12, 165-91.
- 1999 "Pivotal Issues in Analyzing the Verbless Clause." In Cynthia L. Miller, ed., *The Verbless Clause in Biblical Hebrew: Linguistic Approaches*. Linguistic Studies in Ancient West Semitic, 1. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 1-17.
- 1995 "Discourse Functions of Quotative Frames in Biblical Hebrew Narrative." In Walter R. Bodine, ed., *Discourse Analysis of Biblical Literature: What It Is and What It Offers*, 155-82. Semeia Studies. Atlanta: Scholars Press.
- 1994 "Introducing Direct Discourse in Biblical Hebrew Narrative." In Robert D. Bergen, ed., *Biblical Hebrew and Discourse Linguistics*, 199-241. Dallas: Summer Institute of Linguistics.
- 1984 "Connectives in Murle Epistolary Texts." *Occasional Papers in the Study of Sudanese Languages* 5 (1984): 81-134.

Reviews

- f.c. Review of Max Rogland, *Alleged Non-Past Uses of qatal in Classical Hebrew* (SSN 44; Assen: Van Gorcum, 2003), in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*.
- 2002 Review of S. R. Driver, *A Treatise on the Use of the Tenses in Hebrew and Some Other Syntactical Questions*, reprinted with an introduction by W. Randall Garr, in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 61 (2002): 223-25.
- 1997 Review of Longacre, *Joseph: A Study in Divine Providence. A Text Theoretical and Text-Linguistic Analysis of Genesis 37 and 39-48*, in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 56 (1997): 155-56.
- 1997 "In Conversation with *In Conversation with Jonah*," *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures* 1 (1996/1997) [electronic journal at <http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/JHS/Articles/article2.htm>]

- 1997 Review of Person, *In Conversation with Jonah: Conversation Analysis, Literary Criticism, and the Book of Jonah*, in *Biblica* 78 (1997): 415-20.
- 1996 Review of Winther-Nielsen, *A Functional Discourse Grammar of Joshua: A Computer-Assisted Rhetorical Structure Analysis*, in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 58 (1996):736-38.
- 1995 Review of Bodine, *Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew*, in *Hebrew Studies* 36 (1995): 123–26.
- 1994 Review of Meier, *Speaking of Speaking: Marking Direct Discourse in the Hebrew Bible*, in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 56 (1994): 558–60.
- 1989 Review of Groß, *Die Pendenskonstruktion im Biblischen Hebräisch*, in *Religious Studies Review* 15 (1989): 352.

PAPERS AND INVITED LECTURES (selected)

- 2004 “Constraints on Ellipsis in Biblical Hebrew.” Invited lecture for Symposium on Comparative Semitics in Honor of Gene B. Gragg. Oriental Institute, University of Chicago.
- 2004 “Gender in Ancient Israel: Images of Women in the Book of Proverbs.” Invited lecture, Center for Jewish Studies Greenfield Summer Institute “Jews and Gender: Men and Women from Antiquity to the Present.”
- 2003 “A Reconsideration of ‘Double-duty’ Prepositions in Biblical Poetry.” Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew Section, Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting.
- 2003 “Ellipsis and Exegesis in Biblical Poetry.” Invited lecture, Trinity International University.
- 2003 Invited respondant to Stephen B. Chapman, “The Old Testament Canon and Its Authority for the Christian Church.” Symposium on the Theological Interpretation of Scripture, North Park Theological Seminary.
- 2003 “Between Form and Meaning: Translating Biblical Proverbs in African Cultures.” Invited paper. Conference “From Ancient Texts to Modern Versions: Issues in Bible Translation.” Denver Theological Seminary.
- 2002 “Ellipsis Involving Negation in Biblical Poetry.” Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew Section, Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting.
- 2002 “Recent Developments in Biblical Hebrew Linguistics for Teachers of Biblical Hebrew.” Invited paper. National Association of Professors of Hebrew.
- 2002 Four invited papers to the Hebrew Discourse 2002 Workshop: “Conversation Structure in Biblical Hebrew Narrative,” “The Integration of Reported Speech into Biblical Hebrew Narrative,” “Syntax, Discourse, and Poetics in David’s Lament for Saul and Jonathan,” “The Syntax of Ellipsis in Biblical Hebrew”
- 2001 “Linguistic Approaches to Ellipsis in Biblical Poetry (or, what to do when exegesis of what is there depends on what isn’t).” Invited lecture, Institute for Biblical Research.
- 2001 “Methodological Issues in Reconstructing a Language System from Epigraphic Fragments.” Invited lecture for symposium “The Future of Biblical Archaeology: Reassessing Methodologies and Assumptions.” Trinity International University.
- 2001 “Evidentiality and Mirativity in Shilluk,” with Leoma G. Gilley. 8th International Nilo-Saharan Linguistics Colloquium. Hamburg University.

- 2001 "Images of Women in Proverbs." Invited lecture, Alumni Lecture Series. Grace College.
- 2000 "Problems in the Linguistic Categorization of Hebrew Particles." Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew Section, Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting.
- 1999 "The Relation of Coordination to Verb Gapping in Biblical Poetry." Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew Section, Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting.
- 1999 "Variation in the Use of a Grammaticalized Complementizer in Ancient West Semitic." Workshop on Comparative Linguistics 8.
- 1998 "Patterns of Verbal Ellipsis in Ugaritic." Ugaritic and Northwest Semitic Epigraphy Group, Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting.
- 1997 "Patterns of Ellipsis in Prose and Verse." Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew Section, Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting.
- 1996 Panel Review of *In Conversation with Jonah: Conversation Analysis, Literary Criticism, and the Book of Jonah* by Raymond F. Person. Sociolinguistics and Biblical Studies Consultation, Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting.
- 1995 "*Waw* as a Discourse Marker in Biblical Hebrew Dialogue." Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew Section, Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting.
- 1994 "Silence as a Response in Biblical Hebrew Narrative: Strategies of Speakers and Narrators." Sociolinguistics and Biblical Studies Consultation, Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting.
- 1994 "Images of Women in Proverbs." Invited lecture, Wake Forest University.
- 1993 "A Survey of Word Order in Linguistic Theory and Biblical Hebrew." Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew section, Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting.
- 1993 "Conversation and Narration in the Hebrew Bible: The Rape of Dinah (Genesis 34)." Invited lecture, Hebrew Bible Seminar, Duke University.
- 1993 "Introducing Direct Discourse in Biblical Hebrew Narrative." Discourse Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew Seminar, Dallas.
- 1993 "The Syntactic Status of *lē'mōr* in Biblical Hebrew." American Oriental Society annual meeting.
- 1992 "Stylistic Features of the Carthaginian Dedicatory Inscriptions." Northwest Semitic Epigraphy, Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting.
- 1992 "Reported Speech in the Old Testament." Invited lectures, Summer Institute of Linguistics, Nairobi.
- 1991 "An Application of Conversation Analysis to Biblical Hebrew Syntax." Invited lecture, Advanced Hebrew Grammar seminar, Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies, The University of Wisconsin.
- 1991 "The Structure of Offering Lists in the Ugaritic Ritual Texts." Ugaritic and Northwest Semitic Epigraphy, Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting.
- 1990 "On Questions and Their Responses in Biblical Hebrew Dialogue." Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew Section, Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting.
- 1988 "Discourse Functions of Quotative Frames in Biblical Hebrew Narrative." Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew Section, Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting.

ACADEMIC FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

- 2004 Fellow, Institute for Research in the Humanities
- 2004–2005 Project Assistant for research on Ellipsis in Biblical Poetry, Graduate School
- 2003–2004 Project Assistant for research on Ellipsis in Biblical Poetry, Graduate School
- 2002–2003 Project Assistant for research on Ellipsis in Biblical Poetry, Graduate School
- 2002–2003 Fellowship grant, Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture
- 1999 Course Development Grant for “Biblical Poetry in Translation,” Center for Jewish Studies
- 1997 Research Award for the publication of *The Representation of Speech in Biblical Hebrew Narrative: A Linguistic Analysis* (1996), College of Humanities and Social Sciences, North Carolina State University.
- 1996 Research Fund Grant, North Carolina State University.
- 1996 Subvention Fund, North Carolina State University.
- 1995–1996 Faculty Research and Professional Development Grant, North Carolina State University.
- 1995 Faculty Development and Research Grant, North Carolina State University.
- 1995 Summer Stipend, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, North Carolina State University [declined in order to accept Faculty Research and Professional Development Grant].
- 1994 Travel grant, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, North Carolina State University.
- 1990–1991 Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, Doctoral Scholarship.
- 1990–1991 National Foundation for Jewish Culture, Dissertation Grant.
- 1988–1989 The University of Chicago, Fellowship and Teaching Assistantship.
- 1985–1988 The University of Chicago, Century Fellowship.