

Kathryn Elizabeth Slanski

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Education

Harvard University

Ph.D. in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, 1998

Universität München, Institut für Assyriologie und Hethitologie,

Fulbright Scholar, 1987–88

Johns Hopkins University

B.A. (university and departmental honors) in Near Eastern Studies, German Studies minor, 1987

Academic Positions

Senior Lecturer in Humanities and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, 2013–present
Yale University

Director of Undergraduate Studies, NELC 2021–present

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Directed Studies Program 2013–19

Lecturer in Humanities and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, 2005–13
Yale University

Adjunct Instructor, Humanities, Yale University 2004–5

Adjunct Professor, Departments of Religious Studies, Judaic Studies, 2002–4
and History of Art, Fairfield University

Lecturer (equivalent rank to Assistant Professor), Department of Archaeology 1998–2002
and Near Eastern Cultures, Tel Aviv University

Service

Faculty of Arts and Sciences Senate (FASS): Senator 2020–present

Committees: Instructional Faculty and Academic Support;

Diversity (Co-chair 2021-22); Covid-19 Crisis;

Koerner Center for Social Justice (liaison)

FAS DEIB Advisory Committee	2021–present
FAS DEIB Subcommittee on Implementation	2021–present
Poorvu Center Advisory Board (Formerly CTL Advisory Committee)	2018–present
Instructional Faculty review committees	various
NELC Department Curriculum Committee (Chair, 2021–present)	2019–present
Yale Representative to Consortium of Research Institutions w/Core Text Programs/Teagle (together with Bryan Garsten, Norma Thompson)	2013–2018
Organizer/Administrator Direct Studies Impact Assessment	2014–16

Selected Publications

Book

The Babylonian Entitlement narûs: A New Interpretation of the Babylonian kudurrus. The American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) Books, vol. 9 Victor H. Matthews, series editor. Boston, Massachusetts: American Schools of Oriental Research, 2003.

Chapters in edited books

“Justice in Antiquity,” in *Cultural History of Law in Antiquity*, volume I (part of the Cultural Histories Series, Bloomsbury; 2019)

“The Rod and Ring: Enduring Icon of Just Kingship, 2100–850 BCE,” in *Regime Change in the Ancient Near East: from Sargon of Agade to the Seljuks*. London: The British Academy, 2007; 39–57.

“Social Class System and Economy,” a chapter in *Ancient Mesopotamia, 3300–331 BCE*, Ron Wallenfels, ed. World Eras, vol. 8; Columbia, South Carolina: Manly, 2004; pp. 141–180.

“Middle Babylonian Period,” a chapter in *A History of Near Eastern Law*, vol. I, Raymond Westbrook, editor. Handbuch der Orientalistik 72/1. Leiden: Brill, 2003; pp. 485–520.

Articles and Book Reviews

Review of Stanley Lombardo, *Gilgamesh: A New Verse Rendering by Stanley Lombardo; Introduction by Gary Beckman*. Hackett Publishing, 2019. *Journal of Biblical Literature* (in press).

“The Law Stele of Hammurabi and its Audience.” (*The Yale Journal of Law and the Humanities* 24/1 (2012): 97–110.

“Representation of the Divine on the Babylonian Entitlement Monuments (*kudurrus*).” *Archiv für Orientforschung* (2005): 308–320.

“Classification, Historiography, and Monumental Authority: The Babylonian Entitlement *narûs* (*kudurrus*),” *Journal of Cuneiform Studies* 52 (2000): 95–114.

“A Note on the Enclitic Particle *-ma* in the Old Akkadian Letter Greeting Formula” *Israel Oriental Studies* 18 (1998): 9–17.

Work in Progress

Two-Thirds God, One-Third Man: The Hero in the Ancient Near East. (Proposal solicited by Princeton, under review)

“Three New *kudurrus* in the Yale Babylonian Collection.”

“God-King of Akkad: Ur III Evidence for the Deified Manishtushu”

English translation of the *Epic of Gilgamesh*

Papers presented at professional meetings

“New Light on the End of the First Dynasty of Babylon from an Unexpected Source: An Unpublished Entitlement Monument (*kudurru*) Dating to Kadashman-Harbe in the Yale Babylonian Collection,” presented at the annual meeting of the American Oriental Society; San Diego, March, 2004.

“Towards a Model of the Mesopotamian Hero,” presented at the 211th Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Toronto, Canada; March, 2001.

“Text and Image: The Function of Divine Symbols on the Babylonian Entitlement Monuments (*kudurrus*),” presented at the 41st Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, Collège de France, Paris; July, 2000.

“Verbal and Visual Historiography in the Babylonian *kudurrus*,” presented at the 40th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, Harvard University; July, 1998.

Invited papers and lectures:

“‘We Destroyed the Forest’: Man Made Environmental Disaster in a New Fragment of the *Gilgamesh Epic*.” History into the Present: Challenges of Preserving Culture in Cefalonia, a one-day symposium, Ionian University, May 18, 2019.

“Thoughts on the Creation of Humanity.” April 22, 2018, at a symposium on Historical Akkadian Linguistics in honor of John Huehnergard, University of Texas at Austin.

“Violence in the *Epic of Gilgamesh*.” Temple University, Intellectual Heritage Program, February 18, 2016.

“The Law Stele of Hammurabi and Edmund Burke’s Concept of Posterity.” Presented at the Ancient Societies Workshop, Yale University, March 1, 2013.

“The Law Stele of Hammurabi and its Audience.” Presented at “Courts: Representing and Contesting Ideologies of the Public Sphere(s)”, a symposium sponsored by the Yale Law School and the Whitney Humanities Center, February 3–4, 2010.

“*The Epic of Gilgamesh*.” Presented at Bogaziçi University, Istanbul, October 5, 2009.

“The Rod and Ring: Enduring Mesopotamian Icon of Just Kingship.” Presented at Steady States: Continuity in Ancient Near Eastern Politics, Economy, and Art (a joint meeting of the British Academy of London and the British School of Archaeology in Iraq); London, The British Academy; September, 2004.

“Found and Lost: The On-going Devastation to Iraq’s Cultural Heritage.” Presented at the Plenary Session of the Midwest Art Historians Society annual meeting; April, 2004.

“From Babylon to Baghdad: The Sacking of the Iraq National Museum and the Future of Iraq’s Past.” Presented at the Center for Religion, Culture, and Ethics, The College of the Holy Cross; February, 2004.

“Secret Knowledge and the Transformation of the Hero,” a paper offered in response to “Orphism and Pre-Socratic Philosophy,” both presented at “The Mysteries: A Conversation Across the Disciplines,” a conference sponsored by the Department of the Classics at Emory University; April, 2002.

“Before Babel: Historical Interpretations of a Bilingual Situation in Ancient Mesopotamia,” Presented at *Synchysis and Polyglossia: Multilingual Societies in History*, a conference held at Tel Aviv University; February, 1999.

“The Ancient Display Setting of the Babylonian *kudurrus*,” presented at the Museum Session of the 40th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale. New York, The Metropolitan Museum of Art; July, 1998.

Fellowships & Honors

Fellow, Whitney Humanities Center	2006–9
Kohut Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Yale University	2002–5
American Research Institute in Turkey: Grant for Research in Turkey (declined)	2004–5
Visiting Scholar, Judaic Studies, Fairfield University	2004–5
Tel Aviv University Junior Faculty Research Grant	1999–2000
Vatat Post-doctoral Fellowship (Israel Social Science Research	1997–8

Fellowship)	
American Schools of Oriental Research Mesopotamian Fellowship	1995–6
Harvard Graduate Society Dissertation Fellowship	1994–5
Harvard University Awards for Excellence in Teaching	1990–4
Fulbright Fellowship (University of Munich)	1987–8

Select Academic Service and Professional Activities

Co-Director and Co-Founder, Citizens, Thinkers, Writers: A residential summer Humanities Program at Yale for New Haven Public High School students	2016–2020
Curriculum Committee, NELC department, Chair	2015–present
Course Coordinator, Directed Studies Historical and Political Thought	2005–present
Selection Committees, Whitney Humanities Center Mellon Post- Doctoral Fellowships, ACLS New Professorships, Humanities Post- Doctoral Fellowships	2006–present
Admissions Committees, Directed Studies	2006–present
Faculty Advisor (first-years, sophomores)	2005–present
Advisor and Reader for Senior Theses, History of Art, Humanities Program, Classics, NELC	2006–present
Member, Yale Middle Eastern Studies Council	2006–present
NEH Fellowships Selection Panel for Ancient and Classical Studies	August, 2013
Consultant for curriculum development, Universities of Baghdad and Mosul (USAID/State Department program for Higher Education in Iraq)	2003–5
Executive Committee, American Coordinating Committee for Iraqi Cultural Heritage (ACCICH)	2003–5
Author, Petition of International Scholars for the Safeguarding of Iraqi Cultural Heritage	March 2003

Author, curriculum for English Language MA/PhD in Near Eastern Studies and the Archaeology of Israel, Department of Archaeology And Near Eastern Cultures, Tel Aviv University 1999–2000

Member, University Ad-hoc Committee on the Teaching of Undergraduate Writing, Harvard University 1993–4

Archaeological and Other Professional Experience

Instructor, USAID Iraq-Amman Workshop Summer, 2004

Co-organizer (with Corinne Pache, Classics):
“Epic Heroes Then and Now,” a conference held at Yale March, 2008

Curatorial Assistant for Cuneiform Materials
Harvard Semitic Museum 1995–6

Area Supervisor and Assistant for Epigraphic Materials
UCLA Archaeological Excavation at Tell Mozan, Syria.
Giorgio and Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati, Directors. 1992

Editorial Assistant, *Journal of Cuneiform Studies*. 1990

Staff Archaeologist, Arizona State University and the National Forest Service, Payson, Arizona. Charles Redman, Director. 1986

Courses Taught

Yale University:

Directed Studies Historical and Political Thought

Directed Studies Literature

The Hero in the Ancient Near East (lecture, WR)

The Literary Legacy of the Ancient Near East (seminar)

Translating the Hero (seminar)

Myth and Ritual of the Ancient Near East (lecture, WR)

Discovery and Reception of the Ancient Near East (seminar, taught with John Darnell, NELC)

Intermediate Akkadian (Graduate level)

Akkadian Literary Texts: The Epic of Anzu (Graduate level)

Ancient Polytheisms (graduate seminar, taught with Corinne Pache, Classics)

Fairfield University

Exploring Religion: Peoples of the Book

From Creation to the Flood: Mythology of the Ancient Near Eastern East
The Bible and the Ancient Near East
Art of Ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt

Tel Aviv University

Introduction to Mesopotamian Culture (lecture)
Ancient Near Eastern Historiography (seminar)
Law and Justice in the Ancient Near East (seminar)
Topics in Ancient Near Eastern Social History (graduate seminar)
Women in the Ancient Near East (lecture)
History of Ancient Near Eastern Art (lecture)
Anthropological Approaches to Problems in Mesopotamian Religion (graduate seminar)
Comparing the Hero in ancient Greece and the Near East (seminar, taught with Irad Malkin)
Beginning Akkadian
Intermediate Akkadian

Languages

Ancient: Akkadian (all dialects), Sumerian, Biblical Hebrew.

Modern: German, Spanish, some modern Hebrew; reading knowledge of French and Italian.