

Editorial Introduction

Bradford A. Anderson

This issue of *Postscripts* opens with an article from James Watts, reflecting on the tenth anniversary of SCRIPT (the Society for Comparative Research on Iconic and Performative Texts). Watts uses this opportunity to suggest how work done by SCRIPT scholars over the past decade has laid the groundwork for important research that is needed in our present context. Watts's article is a reminder of the need for comparative and theoretical reflection on iconic and performative texts, including scriptures—indeed, as Watts notes, recent events suggest that such reflection is vital. The remainder of the essays in the issue explore the Hebrew Bible in diverse ways. Articles from Colleen Conway and Fiona Black offer stimulating reflections on how the Bible can inform our understanding of social practices and cultural artefacts. Conway analyses how Eve is in many ways an overlooked blueprint for artificial women in literature and film, while Black unpacks how several texts from the Hebrew Bible might help us think about the dance-infused Bahamian celebration of Junkanoo. Conway and Black demonstrate in expert fashion the way in which the Bible can serve as a social and cultural intertext—while the biblical text can help us think about social and cultural issues in new ways, these socio-cultural issues can also impact how we read the Hebrew Bible. The final two essays bring fresh theoretical insights and contemporary concerns to the ancient texts of the Hebrew Bible. David Chalcraft looks at the story of Ehud and Eglon in the book of Judges, drawing on the sociological work of Erving Goffman and insights from disability studies. Sébastien Doane concludes this issue with a reading of the character Judah from the book of Genesis. Using masculinity studies as a conversation partner, Doane draws out antithetical masculinities in the portrayal of Judah, suggesting the need to rethink assumptions about the stable nature of gender construction in the Bible. My thanks to the authors for these thought-provoking and insightful essays, all of which contribute to a key aim of *Postscripts*: interrogating the ongoing reception and mobilization of sacred texts, in historical and contemporary perspective.

