

Abraham Winitzer

EDUCATION

1988-1992, 1993-1995 Brandeis University
B.A., M.A. Near Eastern and Judaic Studies (Biblical Studies, Arabic, Judaic Studies)
1995-2006 Harvard University
M.A., Ph.D. Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (Assyriology; also Semitics;
awarded with distinction [high honors])

TITLE

Associate Professor, The University of Notre Dame (Ancient Near Eastern Studies; Assyriology)

EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor, Department of Theology; Program in History & Philosophy of Science (member), The University of Notre Dame.
Gastprofessor in Altorientalistik (Ancient Near Eastern Studies) “Department,” Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen, 2023-2024.
Fellow, *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin*, 2024-2025 (<https://www.wiko-berlin.de/fellows/akademisches-jahr/2024/winitzer-abraham>)

SIGNIFICANT PREVIOUS:

2013-14 Guest (Assistant) Professor, Oriental Institute, University of Chicago (Assyriology)
2011-12 Rothschild Fellow, Yad Hanadiv (Hebrew University, Jerusalem)
2006-09 Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Notre Dame, Department of Theology (Semitics)

Partner, The Lautenschläger Azekah Archaeological Expedition (<https://azekah.org/>) (2019-).
Senior Consultant, *Tomorrow Never Knows: An Investigation of the Technical Terminology of Babylonian Divination* (Research project funded by the Israel Science Foundation; Tel Aviv University; (2020-).
Scientific Consultant (*Gastwissenschaftler*) to *DFG Mythos-Forschungsgruppe 2064*, Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen (2022-).
External Collaborator, The “Electronic Babylonian Library” (eBL) Project (<https://www.ebl.lmu.de>).
Corporation Partner, “Cross-Cultural Philology: New Perspectives on Premodern Textualities,” *TOPOI* Cluster of Excellence, University of Munich, Profs. B. Kellner, H. Gzella, and K. Radner (2025-).

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs and Edited Volumes

Forthcoming (June, 2026)	<i>The Worlds of Yesterday</i> , Vol. 1: <i>A. Leo Oppenheim and Ancient Mesopotamia in the Light of the Twentieth Century</i> ; History of Ancient Near Eastern Studies and Egyptology 1 (Leiden: Brill); 104,000 words; accepted in November (individual book, its own IBSN vol.)
Forthcoming (June, 2026)	<i>The Worlds of Yesterday</i> , Vol. 2: <i>Letters from the Oppenheim Family</i> ; History of Ancient Near Eastern Studies and Egyptology 2 (Leiden: Brill); 87,000 words; accepted in December (separate book, IBSN vol).
2026	<i>The Spirit of Scholarship: Catholic Clergy at the Dawn of Ancient Near Eastern Studies, 1875-1965</i> , edited volume (Catholic Histories #; Brill). Manuscript to be submitted Feb. 15 th .

- In Press *From the Desktop of the Editors: JANER Special Volume*, ed. Abraham Winitzer (Brill, 2026).
- 2020 *The Babylonian Diaspora: New Historical Perspectives*, guest editor of *Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel* 9).
- 2017 *Early Mesopotamian Divination Literature: Its Organizational Framework and Generative and Paradigmatic Characteristics* (AMD 12; Boston: Brill; 489+xxi pp.). Reviews: A.-C. Rendu Loisel, *JNES* 78: 155-8; I. Arkhipov, *ZA* 109, 110-22; J.-J. Glassner, *BiOr* 76: 137-41.
- 2015-2013 *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions* (Editor-in-Chief).
Literature as Politics, Politics as Literature: Essays on the Ancient Near East in Honor of Peter Machinist, co-edited with David Vanderhooft (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns).

Articles (recent)

- In Progress “The Damascene Wine Trade in Nebuchadnezzar II’s Wadi Brissa Inscription and Ezekiel 27” (With Ronnie Goldstein), to be submitted to the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*.
- In Progress “A Royal Mesopotamian Seal from Tell Azekah” (with Oded Lipschits), to appear in *Tel Aviv*.
- In Progress “Akkadian *kipir kišādīm* and Fate of Islam’s *kāfirūn* in Q 8:12; 47:4,” invited for the annual *Israel Oriental Studies*.
- In Progress “Yahweh Subjugates the Earth – On Genesis 4,” with Annette Zgoll, to appear in *MythoS* (Mythological Studies) #, Berlin/Boston.
- Forthcoming “The Current Historiography of *Eigenbegrifflichkeit*,” *Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes* (invited).
- Forthcoming “Ea’s Proposal for Nergal’s Netherworld Escape: Backgrounds and Implications,” *Orientalia*.
- Forthcoming 2026/7 “*Dām* – “Sanguis”; *Hāmās* – ‘*Cruor*’?” to appear in *Festschrift NN*.
- 2026 (Spring) “YOS 10 25:10’ // YOS 10 26 iii 50-51 and the Early History of *Pillurtu* in Extispicy,” *NABU*
- 2026 (April) “Gilgameš, in Mesopotamian Tradition,” (<https://www.bibleodyssey.org>)
- 2026 “Contemplating Dead Civilizations and the Sounds of Life,” *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin: Jahrbuch* 2024-2025.
- 2025 “*Atrahasis*,” *Bible Odyssey* (<https://www.bibleodyssey.org>)
- 2025 “An Enlivening Biblical *Geist* for Assyriology,” in *Jehu’s Tribute: What Can the Bible Do for Assyriology?* Ed. J. Cooley and R. Thelle (Eisenbrauns), 67-77.
- 2025 “*Listenwissenschaft* and *Ordnungswille* from a Jewish Perspective: A. L. Oppenheim on Ancient Mesopotamia before ‘A Dead Civilization’,” in ‘*Semitische Wissenschaften*’? *Ägyptologie und Altorientalistik im ‘Dritten Reich*’, ed. H. Behlmer et al., (Göttinger Orientforschungen, IV. Reihe: Ägypten), Harrassowitz: Wiesbaden), 215-230.
- 2025 “Toward Leo Oppenheim’s Dead Civilization and Stream of Tradition,” in *Towards a History of Assyriology*, ed. S. Fink and H. Neumann (IO 4; Münster, Zaphon), 376-95.
- 2024 “Biblical (Gen 25-35) New Light on *Nergal* and *Ereškigal*,” *Iraq* 86: 1-15.
- 2023 “Mesopotamian Mythology and Genesis 1-11,” in *Oxford Bibliographies in Biblical Studies*, ed. C. Matthews (New York: Oxford University Press) (with Kacie Klammm).
- 2023 “*Atrahasis*, behind the First Sin that Cried to Heaven and Related Matters,” *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions: Special Editors’ Issue* 23 (2023): 69-109.
- 2023 “Oppenheim, Adolf Leo,” *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, ed. C. M. Furey, et al. (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2023);
<https://www.degruyter.com/database/EBR/entry/Oppenheim/html>.
- 2023 “Messages and Messengers of Kings and Gods: *Anzû* in the Light of the Diplomatic Correspondence from the Amorite/Old Babylonian Age,” in *Dieux, rois et capitales dans le Proche-Orient ancien: Compte rendu de la LXVe Rencontre Assyriologique*

- Internationale (Paris, 8-12 juillet 2019)*, ed. M. Béranger, F. Nebiolo, and N. Ziegler (Leuven: Peeters), 1065-82.
- 2021 “Leo Oppenheim,” in *Tomorrow Never Knows*. Last modified August 21, 2021. <https://sites.google.com/view/tomorrow-never-knows/history-of-research/first-generation/leo-oppenheim>.
- 2021 “Conceptions of Mesopotamian Divination,” *Archiv für Orientforschung* 54: 321-42.
- 2020 “World Literature as a Source for Israelite History: Gilgamesh in Ezekiel 16,” in *Writing and Rewriting History in Ancient Israel and Near Eastern Cultures*, ed. I. Kalimi (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz), 103-20.
- 2019 History as Scholarship in the Early Babylonian Divination Literature (Part I),” *KASKAL* 16 (2019), 259-77.
- 2019 “Sidebar: A. Leo Oppenheim,” in a centennial volume of the Oriental Institute, ed. Th. van den Hout, 246-7 (Chicago).
- 2018 “Albright, W. F.,” in *The Encyclopedia of Ancient History*, ed. Edited by R. S. Bagnall et al. (Malden: Wiley-Blackwell), at: <https://doi-org.proxy.library.nd.edu/10.1002/9781444338386.wbeah30400>.
- 2018 “Old Signs in New Dress? On the Meaning of Inanna’s Symbol as Sign and ‘Presence’ in Early Babylonian Divination” in *“The Scaffolding of Our Thoughts”: Essays on Assyriology and the History of Science in Honor of Francesca Rochberg*, ed. J. Chrisostomo et al. (AMD 13; Boston: Brill), 26-57.
- 2017 Review of U. Koch, *Mesopotamian Divination Texts: Conversing with the Gods: Sources from the First Millennium BCE*, *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 80: 369-70.
- 2016 Commentary to Select Passages, in *The Qur’an Seminar Commentary: A Collaborative Analysis of 50 Select Passages*, ed. M. Azaiez, G. S. Reynolds, T. Tesei & H. Zafer (Berlin: de Gruyter).

Talks (2023-2025)

- “‘A Land of Milk and Honey’ and Other Unexpected Riches in the *Tigunānu* Omens,” Divination in the Ancient Near East Workshop, March 5-6, 2025, Ludwig-Maximilian-Universität, Munich.
- “Ea’s Proposal for Nergal’s Netherworld Escape: Backgrounds and Theological Implications,” 69th *Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale* (Helsinki, Finland, July 8-12, 2024).
- “Mesopotamian Myth and Philology in Biblical Theory: More on Philosophy and Science in the Ancient Near East,” invited lecture, Philipps-Universität Marburg, June 4, 2024.
- “On Leo Oppenheim’s ‘Dead Civilizations,’” invited lecture, Ludwig-Maximilian-Universität, Munich, May 7, 2024.
- “Approaches from Without? External New Light on Nergal and Ereškigal and a Challenge to the ‘Dead Civilization’,” invited lecture in the conference *Approaches to Cuneiform Literature* (UCL London, March 31-April 1, 2023).

Doctoral Dissertations (Notre Dame and Marburg)

- Johannes Dams, “Das Kapitel ubānu der Opferschau-Serie *bārūtu*: Edition, Kommentar und Auswertung,” Philipps-Universität Marburg (2nd reader, Director: Prof. Dr. Nils P. Heeßel)
- Rachel Corcho, “*Kittu* and *’emet*: Ideas of Truth and Nature in Mesopotamia and the Bible” (Director).
- Mark Lackowski, “The Blinded Hero: The Evolution of the Samson Stories” (Director).
- Kacie Klammm, “Joseph, Diviner and King: The Joseph Story in Light of Historical Sources from Esarhaddon’s Reign” (Co-Director).
- Julian Chike, “*Šāpītu/šōpēt*-Leadership in Ancient Near Eastern History and Biblical Tradition” (Co-Director).
- Raleigh Heth, “A Theology of the Younger Gods in Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Mythic Literature (Director).
- Wenxuan Yuan, “The Earth in Biblical Cosmology” (Director).

Mark Enemali, “The Danger of Transgression against Divine Presence: The Case of the Ark Narrative (1 Samuel 4:1-7:1; 2 Samuel 6)” (2nd reader).

- Andrew Geist, “‘He Will Repay Him With Good’: The Relationship Between Wealth and Piety in Mesopotamia and Ancient Israel” (2nd reader).
- Justus Ghormley, “Scribal Traditions in Jeremiah in Light of Contextual Perspectives” (2nd reader).
- Joseph Khalil, “What has Ur to Do with Sinai? A Study of Covenant Theology in Second Temple Biblical and Extra-Biblical Texts” (3rd reader).
- Luma Kudher, “Micah 4-5: Historical, Literary, and Redactional Perspectives” (3rd reader).
- Anthony Pagliarini, “Theology of Restoration in the Book of Ezekiel: A Canonical Reading of Ezekiel 40-48” (3rd reader).
- Kristin Palacios, “The Jacob Cycle (Gen 25-36): Methodologies for Reading the Pentateuch” (3rd reader).
- Andrew J. O’Connor, “Only a Warner? The Prophetic Vocation in the Qur’an and Early Islam.” (3rd reader).

HONORS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS (SELECT)

- Faculty Research Support Program – Regular Grant entitled “The Spirit of Scholarship, Part II: The Roman Catholic Background of Ancient Near Eastern and Biblical Studies and Its Legacy,” 2020 (\$55,000).
- Schlindwein Family Tel Aviv University-Notre Dame Research Collaboration Grant – (collaborator: Professor Oded Lipschits, Tel Aviv University), 2019-2020 (\$58,000)
- Mellon Foundation Sawyer Seminar grant on the comparative study of cultures, organized by Gabriel Reynolds, Abraham Winitzer, and Mehdi Azaiez, entitled “The Qur’an in the World of Late Antiquity,” 2012-13 (\$175,000).
- Yad Hanadiv/Beracha Foundation Programme of Visiting Fellowships in Jewish Studies, 2011-12 (\$40,000).