

Marko Feingold Distinguished Fellowship at the Paris Lodron Universität Salzburg, Austria

01.03.2022 – 31.12.2022

Second Incoming Marko Feingold Distinguished Fellow Professor Dr René Bloch



Professor Dr René Bloch is a professor of Jewish Studies at the Institute for Jewish Studies and the Department of Classics at the University of Bern, Switzerland.

Before his current position, he held positions at the University of Basel, Princeton, Trinity College (Hartford), and the University of Lausanne. He held research and visiting fellowships at the University of California (Santa Barbara), Columbia University, Harvard University (as a Harry Starr fellow), the Hebrew University, the University of Munich, and at the Sorbonne. He delivered the *Tria Corda* lectures at the University of Jena, the *Emil-Fackenheim* lecture at the Zacharias Frankel College in Berlin, the *Franz-Delitzsch* lecture in Münster, and the *Yerushalmi* lecture at the University of Munich.

He was president of the Research Committee of the University of Bern, Scientific Advisor at the Swiss State Secretariat for Education and Research, Chair and Deputy-Chair of the Theology Department at the University of Bern. Prof. Bloch served on the board of directors of the *Association for Jewish Studies* and is currently co-chair of the Hellenistic Judaism Program Unit of the *Society of Biblical Literature*.

Together with Karina Martin Hogan (Fordham University) René Bloch is co-editing the *Supplements to the Journal for the Study of Judaism* and together with Alfred Bodenheimer (University of Basel) the journal *Judaica: Neue Digitale Folge*. He is a member of the editorial board of the *Journal for the Study of Judaism* and of the scientific committee of *Adamantius: Annuario di Letteratura Cristiana Antica e di Studi Giudeoellenistici*.

He is the author of the monographs *Moses und der Mythos: Die Auseinandersetzung mit der griechischen Mythologie bei jüdisch-hellenistischen Autoren*, JSJS 145 (Leiden: Brill, 2011); *Antike Vorstellungen vom Judentum: Der Judenexkurs des Tacitus im Rahmen der griechisch-römischen Ethnographie*, Historia-Einzelschriften 160 (Stuttgart: Steiner, 2002), *Jüdische Drehbühnen: Biblische Variationen im antiken Judentum*, Jenaer Vorlesungen zu Judentum, Antike und Christentum (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2013) and of the forthcoming *Ancient*

Jewish Diaspora: Essays on Hellenism (Brill). Currently, he is working on an edition of Philo's *De Vita Mosis*, an introduction to Philo and on a volume on Jewish Hellenism.

One of his main interests is the study of antisemitism in the ancient world as well as the question of the construction of Jewish identity in antiquity. He has worked on a variety of questions regarding Flavius Josephus, Philo, Tacitus, and the reception of these authors. He is co-editor of the forthcoming *Protestant Bible Scholarship: Antisemitism, Philosemitism and Anti-Judaism*, JSJS 200 (Leiden: Brill, 2022).

Work program and research focus 2022

Professor René Bloch will be studying the Jewish-Hellenistic texts, esp. Josephus and Philo, in which antisemitism and assaults on the Jews in Greco-Roman antiquity are discussed. Moreover, he will analyse how biblical texts such as the book of Esther were reinterpreted within the new literary and historical context of the Hellenistic and Roman periods.

By conducting the above described research, Professor Bloch will contribute to the study of the textual sources from antiquity that deal with anti-Judaism and antisemitism and thus be a perfect incoming Marko Feingold Distinguished Fellow.

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