

Prof Philip Esler

Research Interests Include:

- The social-scientific interpretation of biblical texts
- Paul
- The development of early Christian identity
- Hermeneutics
- Visuality and the Bible
- Ethics and contemporary issues

Books:

- *Sex, Wives, and Warriors: Reading Biblical Narrative with Its Ancient Audience* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2011; 408 pp) See review <http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/story.asp?storycode=417565>
Buy this book <http://www.amazon.co.uk/Sex-Wives-Warriors-Narrative-ebook/dp/B0058ZX1F8>
- *New Testament Theology: Communion and Community*, (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2005; 353 pp). Buy this book <http://www.amazon.co.uk/New-Testament-Theology-Communion-Community/dp/0800637208>
- *Conflict and Identity in Romans: The Social Setting of Paul's Letter* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2003; 460 pages). Spanish translation: *Conflicto e identidad en la carta a los Romanos. El contexto social de la carta de Pablo*. (Navarra: Editorial Verbo Divino, 2006; 544 pp). Italian translation: *Conflitto e identità nella lettera ai Romani: Il contesto sociale dell'epistola di Paolo* (Brescia: Paideia Editrice, 2008; 489 pp) Buy this book <http://www.amazon.co.uk/Conflict-Identity-Romans-Social-Setting/dp/0800634357>
- *Galatians*. (London and New York: Routledge, 1998; 290 pages) Buy this book <http://www.amazon.co.uk/Galatians-Testament-Readings-Philip-Esler/dp/0415110378>
- *The First Christians in Their Social Worlds: Social-Scientific Approaches to New Testament Interpretation*. (London and New York: Routledge, 1994; 164 pp)
- *Community and Gospel in Luke-Acts: The Social and Political Motivations of Lucan Theology*. Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series, No. 57. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987; reprinted 1990 and 1994; 270 pp)

Books Co-Authored:

- *Lazarus, Martha and Mary: A Social-Scientific and Theological Reading of John*, jointly co-authored with Ronald A. Piper. (London: SCM, 2006; vi + 201 pp). Buy this book <http://www.amazon.co.uk/Lazarus-Mary-Martha-Social-scientific-Reading/dp/0334040167>
- *Visuality and Biblical Text: Interpreting Velázquez' Christ with Martha and Mary as a Test Case*, jointly authored with British artist [Jane Boyd](#). *Arte e Archeologia: Studi e Documenti*, 26. (Florence: Leo S. Olschki Editore, 2004; 156 pages, twenty six plates and six illustrations). Buy this book <http://www.olschki.it/Prosp/SP/2004/53698.pdf>

Books Edited:

- *Ancient Israel: The Old Testament in Its Social Context*, edited by Philip F. Esler. (Fortress Press, Minneapolis, 2006); twenty chapters and xvii + 420 pages. Italian translation: *Israele antico e scienze sociali*. Introduzione allo studio della Bibbia. Supplementi 41. Brescia: Paideia Editrice, 2009.
- *The Early Christian World*, edited by Philip F Esler, two volumes, totalling 1,350 pages. (London and New York: Routledge, 2000)
- *Christianity for the Twenty First Century*, edited by Philip F Esler. (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1998; 278 pages)
- *Modelling Early Christianity: Social-Scientific Studies of the New Testament in its Context*, edited by Philip F Esler. (London and New York: Routledge, 1995; 349 pp)

Contributions to Books:

- 'Ancient Mediterranean Monomachia in the Light of Cultural Anthropology: The Case of David and Goliath.' In *The Idea of Man and Concepts of the Body: Anthropological Studies on the Ancient Cultures of Israel, Egypt, and the Near East*. Oriental Religions in Antiquity, edited by Anjelika Berjelung, Joachim Friedrich Quack and Jan Dietrich. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, forthcoming 2011 (17,000 words).
- 'Judean Ethnic Identity and the Purpose of Hebrews.' In *Method & Meaning: Essays on New Testament Interpretation in Honor of Harold A. Attridge*, edited by Andrew B. McGowan and Kent Harold Richards. Atlanta, GA: Society of Biblical Literature, 2011, 469-89.
- The Biblical Paintings of Ivor Williams (1908-1984), in Martin O'Kane and John Morgan-Guy, eds., *Biblical Art from Wales 1800-1975*. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2010; 187-203.
- 'Judean Ethnic Identity in Josephus' *Against Apion*', in *A Wandering Galilean: Essays in Honour of Sean Freyne*. Edited by Zuleika Rodgers with Margaret Daly-Denton and Anne Fitzpatrick McKinley (Leiden: Brill: 2009, 73-91)
- 'La muerte de Jesús y el Siervo sufriente de Isías: aproximación psico-sociológica a una cuestión histórica y teológica', in Carmen Bernabé and Carlos Gil, eds., *Reimaginando los orígenes del cristianismo* (FS for Rafael Aguirre), Estella: EVD, 2008, 171-92.
- 'From *loudaioi* to Children of God: The Development of a Non-Ethnic Group Identity in the Gospel of John', in Anselm C. Hagedorn, Zeba A. Crook and Eric Stewart, eds., *In Other Words: Essays on Social Science Methods and the New Testament in Honor of Jerome H. Neyrey*. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2007, 106-37.
- 'Filiación en Gálatas. Un Estudio Sociocientífico y Teológico', in Juan José Ayán Calvo, Patricio de Navascués Benlloch and Manuel Aroztegui Esnaola, eds., *Filiación: Cultura Pagana, Religión de Israel, Orígenes del Cristianismo. Volume 3*. Madrid: Editorial Trotta, 2007, 219-35.
- "'Remember My Fetters": A Social- and Cognitive Science Approach to the Memorialisation of Paul's Imprisonment in the Pseudo-Pauline Letters', in Petri Luomanen, Ilka Pyysiäinen and Risto Uro, eds., *Explaining Early Judaism and Christianity: Contributions from Cognitive and Social Science* Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2007, 231-58.
- 'Social Scientific Approaches' in Stanley E. Porter. editor, *Dictionary of Biblical Criticism and Interpretation* (London and New York: Routledge, 2007, 337-340)
- 'Understanding the Death of Jesus in Its Ancient Context: Perpetrator and Victim Perspectives', 10,000 words, W. Mayer, P. Allen and L. Cross (eds), *Prayer and Spirituality in the Early Church*. Volume 3. (Strathfield, NSW: St Paul's Publications, 2006.)
- 'New Testament Interpretation as Interpersonal Communion: Essays in Honour of Robert Morgan', in Christopher Rowland and Christopher Tuckett, eds., *The Nature of New Testament Theology* (Oxford: Blackwells; 2006), 51-74.
- 'Social-Scientific Models in Biblical Interpretation', in Philip F. Esler, editor, *Ancient Israel: The Old Testament in Its Social Context*. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006), 3-14.
- '2 Samuel - David and the Ammonite War: A Narrative and Social-Scientific Study of 2 Samuel 10-12', in Philip F. Esler, editor, *Ancient Israel: The Old Testament in Its Social Context*. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006), 191-207.
- Philip F. Esler and Anselm Hagedorn, 'The Social-Scientific Analysis of the Old Testament: A Brief History and Overview', in Philip F. Esler, editor, *Ancient Israel: The Old Testament in Its Social Context*. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006), 15-32.
- 'The Role of Hannah in 1 Samuel 1:1-2: 21: Understanding a Biblical Narrative in Its Ancient Context', in Christian Strecker, editor, *Kontexte der Schrift. Band II: Kultur, Politik, Religion, Sprache. Festschrift für Wolfgang Stegemann*. (Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 2005), 15-36.
- 'Paul and the Agon: Understanding a Pauline Motif in Its Cultural and Visual Context', in Annette Weissenrieder and Friederike Wendt, eds., *Iconography and the New Testament*. WUNT. (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2005), 356-84.
- 'Rome in Apocalyptic and Rabbinic Literature', in John Riches and David Sim, eds. *Matthew in Colonial Perspective*. (Continuum 2005), 151-71.
- 'Collective Memory and Hebrews 11: Outlining a New Investigative Framework', in Alan Kirk and Tom Thatcher, eds., *Social Memory and Christian Origins*, Semeia Monographs, Society of Biblical Literature, 2005, 52: 151-71.
- 'The Context Group Project: An Autobiographical Account', in Mario Aguilar and Louise Lawrence, eds., *Anthropology and Biblical Studies: Avenues of Research*. (Leiden: Deo Publishing, 2004), 46-61.

- 'The Character of Early Christianity in Rome', in *Prayer and Spirituality in the Early Church, Vol. 3*, edited by Bronwen Neil, Geoffrey D. Dunn and Lawrence Cross (Homebush, NSW: St Paul Publications, 2003), 19-42 (including eight illustrations).
- 'Jesus in the Social, Political and Religious Context of His Time', an article of some 6,000 words to appear in *Jesus in History, Culture and Thought: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Leslie Houlden and published by ABC Clio Publishers (2004), 462-76.
- 'Jesus und die Reduzierung von Gruppenkonflikten: Das Gleichnis vom barmherzigen Samaritaner im Rahmen der Theorie der sozialen Identität', a German translation of the following essay, in Wolfgang Stegemann, Bruce J. Malina and Gerd Theissen, eds., *Jesus in Neuen Kontexten*. (Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 2003), 197-211.
- 'Jesus and the Reduction of Intergroup Conflict,' an abridged version of the article of similar title in *Biblical Interpretation*, 2000, in Bruce J. Malina, Wolfgang Stegemann and Gerd Theissen, eds. *The Social Setting of Jesus and the Gospels* (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2002) 185-205.
- 'Making and Breaking an Agreement Mediterranean Style: A New Reading of Galatians 2:1-14', in Nanos, Mark D., ed., *The Galatians Debate* (Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 2002), 261-81 (this is a reprint of the article of the same name published in *Biblical Interpretation* in 1995, *infra*).
- '1 Thessalonians', a mini-commentary (of 16,000 words) one of the chapters in John Barton and John Muddiman, eds. *The Oxford Bible Commentary*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001), 1200-12.
- '2 Thessalonians', a mini-commentary (of 8,500 words) one of the chapters in John Barton and John Muddiman eds. *The Oxford Bible Commentary*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001), 1213-20.
- Preface to a new imprint by SCM of L. William Countryman, *Dirt, Greed and Sex*. (London: SCM, 2001), ix-xiii.
- 'Palestinian Judaism', in Dan Cohn-Sherbok and John M. Court, eds., *Religious Diversity in the Greco-Roman World*. (Sheffield: Sheffield University Press, 2001), 21-46
- 'The Mediterranean Context of Early Christianity', Chapter One, in *The Early Christian World*, edited by Philip F Esler. (London and New York: Routledge, 2000), 3-25
- "'Keeping it in the Family": Culture, Kinship and Identity in 1 Thessalonians and Galatians', in Jan Willem van Henten and Athalya Brenner, eds., *Families and Family Relations as Represented In Early Judaism and Early Christianities: Texts and Fictions*. Papers Read at a NOSTER Colloquium in Amsterdam, June 9-11, 1998. *Studies in Theology and Religion, Volume 2*. Leiden: Deo Publishing, 2000, 145-84
- "'By the Hand of a Woman": Culture, Story and Theology in the Book of Judith', in John J. Pilch, ed., *Social Scientific Models for Interpreting the Bible: Essays by the Context Group in Honor of Bruce J. Malina*. (Leiden: E J Brill, 2001), 64-101
- 'The Socio-Redaction Criticism of Luke-Acts', in Horrell, David G., ed, *Social-Scientific Approaches to New Testament Interpretation* (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1999), 123-50 (this is a reprint of Chapter 1 of my *Community and Gospel in Luke Acts*, 1987, *supra*).
- 'The Madness of Saul: A Cultural Reading of 1 Samuel 8-31', in Cheryl J. Exum and Stephen D Moore eds. *Biblical Studies/Cultural Studies*. (Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1998), 220-262
- 'Introduction: Christianity for the Twenty First Century', in Philip F Esler, ed., *Christianity for the Twenty First Century*. (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1998), 1-21
- 'Poverty and Riches in the Bible and the Third World', in Philip F Esler, ed., *Christianity for the Twenty First Century*. (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1998), 145-179
- Entry on the Letters to the Corinthians in the *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*, (Downer's Grove, Ill and Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 1998), 165-166
- 'Family Imagery and Christian Identity in Gal. 5.13-6.10', in Halvor Moxnes, ed., *Constructing Early Christian Families: Family as Social Reality and Metaphor*. (London and New York: Routledge, 1997), 121-149
- 'Science, Culture and Ethics: Striking a Balance', in *Science and Society*, a 1995 conference volume published by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (London: Pilkington Press, 1997), 13-26
- 'Group Boundaries and Intergroup Conflict in Galatians: A New Reading of Gal. 5:13-6:10', in Mark Brett, ed., *Ethnicity and the Bible*, (Leiden: E J Brill, 1996), 215-240
- 'Introduction: Models, Context and Kerygma in New Testament Interpretation', in Philip F Esler, ed., *Modelling Early Christianity: Social-Scientific Studies of the New Testament in its Context*. (London and New York: Routledge, 1995)
- 'God's Honour and Rome's Triumph: Responses to the Fall of Jerusalem in 70 CE in Three Jewish Apocalypses', in Philip F Esler, ed., *Modelling Early Christianity: Social-Scientific Studies of the New Testament in its Context*. (London and New York: Routledge, 1995), 239-258

- 'Acts of the Apostles', in R J Coggins and J L Houlden, eds., *A Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. (London and Philadelphia: SCM Press and Trinity Press International, 1990), 2-5

Academic Articles in Recognised Journals:

Bible and Theology

- 'Die historische Interpretation des Neuen Testaments als Kommunikation in der Gemeinschaft der Heiligen. Entwurf einer ekklesialen Hermeneutik' (7,300 words), in *Evangelische Theologie*, an issue edited by Ulrich Luz and Gerd Theissen, forthcoming 2012.
- 'Prototypes, Antitypes and Social identity in *First Clement*: Outlining a New Interpretative Model', *Annali di storia dell'esegesi* (2007): 125-45.
- 'Paul's Contestation of Israel's (Ethnic) Memory of Abraham in Galatians 3', *Biblical Theology Bulletin* 2006 Volume 36: 23-34.
- 'The Incident of the Withered Fig Tree in Mark 11: A New Source and Redactional Explanation', *Journal for the Study of the New Testament*, 2005, 28: 41-67.
- 'The Sodom Tradition in Romans 1:18-32', *Biblical Theology Bulletin* Volume 34, 2004, 4-16.
- 'Paul and Stoicism: Romans 12 as a Test Case', 8,000 words, in *New Testament Studies*, Volume 50, 2004, 106-24.
- 'Ancient Oleiculture and Ethnic Differentiation: The Meaning of the Olive-Tree Image in Romans 11', in *Journal for the Study of the New Testament*, Volume 26, 2003, 103-124.
- 'Ezra-Nehemiah as a Narrative of (Re-Invented) Israelite Identity', *Biblical Interpretation*, Volume 11, 2003, 413-26.
- 'Social Identity, the Virtues and the Good Life: A New Approach to Romans 12:1-15:13', 10,000 words, *Biblical Theology Bulletin*, Volume 33, 2003, 51-64
- 'Ludic History in the Book of Judith: The Reinvention of Israelite Identity?' *Biblical Interpretation*, Volume 10, 2002, 107-43.
- 'Jesus and the Reduction of Intergroup Conflict: The Parable of the Good Samaritan in the Light of Social Identity Theory', *Biblical Interpretation*, Volume 8, 2000, 325-57
- 'Models in New Testament Interpretation: A Reply to David Horrell' in *Journal for the Study of the New Testament*, Volume 78, 2000, 107-113 (a reply to David G Horrell's article 'Models and Methods in Social Scientific Interpretation: A Response to Philip Esler' in the same issue of this journal)
- 'Community and Gospel in Early Christianity: A Response to Richard Bauckham's *Gospels for All Christians*', *Scottish Journal of Theology* Volume 51, 1998, 235-248
- "'House Members of the Faith": Domestic Architecture and Early Christian Identity', *Cosmos*, Volume 12, 1996, 223-239
- 'Making and Breaking an Agreement Mediterranean Style: A New Reading of Galatians 2.1-14', *Biblical Interpretation*, Volume 3, 1995, 285-314
- 'Mountaineering in Matthew: A Response to K C Hanson', in Mark McVann, ed., *Passages, Transformations and Processes: Ritual Approaches to Biblical Texts*, a special issue of *Semeia*, Volume 67, 1994, 171-177
- 'The Social Function of 4 Ezra', *Journal for the Study of the New Testament*, Volume 53, 1994, 99-123
- 'Political Oppression in Jewish Apocalyptic Literature: A Social-Scientific Approach', *Listening: Journal of Religion and Culture*, Volume 28, 1993, 181-99
- 'Glossolalia and the Admission of the Gentiles into the Early Christian Community', *Biblical Theology Bulletin*, Volume 22, 1992, 136-42
- 'A Reply to A G Van Aarde, 'The Most High God does Live in Houses, but not Houses Built by Men. 2'. The Relativity of the Metaphor "the Temple" in Luke-Acts', in *Neotestamentica*, Volume 25, 1991, 51-64, in *Neotestamentica*, Volume 25, 1991, 173-74

International Relations/Law/Ethics

- David W Brannan, Philip F Esler, N T Anders Strindberg, 'Talking to "Terrorists": Towards an Independent Analytical Framework for the Study of Violent Substate Activism', *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, Volume 24, 2001, 3-24.
- 'Anti-Discrimination Law in Australia', *The Australian Catholic Record* 64 (1987), 263-69.
- 'Government Regulation and the Short-term Money Market', *The Commercial Law Association Bulletin*, January 1982

- 'Resale Price Maintenance', one of the chapters in *The Australian Trade Practices Reporter*. (Sydney: Commerce Clearing House, 1981)