NOLL, SONJA (postdoc)
Faculties: Oriental Institute (Oxford) / Hebrew and Jewish Studies (UCL)
Short Title: History of Biblical Hebrew Lexicography

Proposal for a research project:
The History of Biblical Hebrew Lexicography

Abstract
I propose to research the methodological development of our modern biblical Hebrew lexica by tracing their development and transmission from the early medieval grammarians to today. Of particular interest in this process are: the 16th-century Christian Hebraists who disseminated the Jewish lexicographical tradition, the 17th-century introduction of Arabic cognates into biblical Hebrew lexica, the work of Gesenius in the 19th century, and the discovery and decipherment of the cognate languages Akkadian and Ugaritic in the 19th-20th centuries. The early 20th-century academic climate prioritising etymologies also had a significant impact that is still perceptible in modern biblical Hebrew dictionaries. This study will expose inconsistencies in method and shifts in tradition in order to identify entries in need of revision. It will be useful for both students and scholars in identifying the methodological presuppositions of various dictionaries, and in making it possible to evaluate more judiciously the reliability of glosses in them.