OTSEM
OLD TESTAMENT STUDIES: EPISTEMOLOGIES AND METHODS

A NORTHERN EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR HEBREW BIBLE / OLD TESTAMENT STUDIES

OTSEM Charter

Last confirmed in the OTSEM Business Meeting in Skálholt, Iiceland, 15 Septembder 2010.*

1) OTSEM is a Northern European network of scholars working in the field of Hebrew Bible / Old Testament studies and affiliated to institutions offering PhD education in this field. Each institutional group is responsible for deciding precisely what is necessary to fulfill affiliation criteria and hence to be an OTSEM member. Members are expected to normally take part in network activities, including that of ongoing academic exchange.

In its second phase (OTSEM-2), the network continues the academic and social traditions established in its earlier phases (OTSEM-1 and Proto-OTSEM meetings). In this phase OTSEM is a multi-nodal network, where each member group or their institution take responsibility for planning and conducting network activity – bilaterally or multilaterally within the network.

2) The ***purpose*** of OTSEM is:

- To maintain and enhance a rich and supportive academic context for PhD scholars and post doc. scholars working in the field of HB/OT studies.
- To maintain and enhance networking and cooperation between member-affiliated institutions.
- To maintain and develop a sense of academic fellowship between scholars working in the field of HB/OT, continuing a practice that helps them benefit from each others' competences and from the collective academic force that OTSEM as a group embodies.

---

* The charter is a slight revision of the charter from Granavolden on 8 December 2008, which again was based on OTSEM practice since 2004 and on deliberations in the OTSEM Steering Committee in Copenhagen 26 February 2008, in the OTSEM Business Meeting in Lund, 23 April 2008.

- To serve as an academic context for members and members' institutions applying for external funding.

3) In its second phase, OTSEM maintains the following ***organization***:

- Each members-affiliated institution appoints a local OTSEM contact person. This ***Local Contact*** is responsible for distributing information between the local group and the OTSEM network (through the Coordinating Committee). The Local Contact should be a person that is central in the HB/OT group at the institution, so as to be able to maintain open lines with the leadership of the institution.
- In countries where members come from more than one institution, the group of national local contacts nominates from among themselves one ***National Representative*** to the OTSEM Coordinating Committee. National Representatives are elected by the OTSEM Business Meeting. If there is a need to elect national representatives without a Business Meeting being convened, election is made by national members voting by e-mail to the OTSEM Coordinator. In countries where there is only one member institution, the Local Contact is nominated as the National Representative.
- The OTSEM ***Coordinating Committee*** consists of all national representatives plus one representative for PhD scholars in the network, one representative for post doc. scholars in the network, and finally the network Coordinator. The Coordinating Committee is responsible for (a) maintaining and developing the network so as to support the OTSEM purposes (above), (b) giving advice and, if relevant, support for local contacts and institutions undertaking network activities, (c) arranging occasional OTSEM Plenary Meetings. PhD and post doc. representatives are elected in separate meetings in these groups during the Annual Conference. In order to ensure adequate representation in the annual Business Meeting, *two* representatives are named from among the PhD and post doc. members respectively. These two agree among themselves which of them actually represents the group in the meeting.
- The OTSEM ***Coordinator*** is nominated by the Coordinating Committee and elected by the OTSEM Business Meeting for a period of three years. If there is a need to elect a new coordinator without a Business Meeting being convened, election is conducted by all members voting by e-mail to a member of the Coordinating Committee. The Coordinator and her or his institution are responsible for (a) promoting the network and its purposes, (b)

maintaining a simple website that presents the network and facilitates OTSEMs purposes, (c) act on behalf of the network, when members need network endorsement to their application for external funding, etc., (d) administrate any funds that are awarded to the network as such.

- The OTSEM ***Business Meeting*** is the highest authority of the network. It elects coordinator and Coordinating Committee and discusses all matters pertaining to the policy of the network. The Business Meeting convenes whenever there is a plenary OTSEM Meeting and the Coordinating Committee or five members request a sitting.

4) In its second phase, OTSEM aims to maintain network ***activities*** that include seminars and conferences, PhD courses, exchange of teachers, exchange of tutoring services, research visits, assistance in publication, etc. Whenever feasible, relevant arrangements are openly announced within the network and admission is granted to all members, albeit on their own economic support. Occasional plenary meetings are initiated by the Coordinating Committee and funded either by central funding (where possible), by local funds (where feasible) or by individual members.