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Title of paper: Hebel and the Context of Hellenistic Philosophy

Hebel is a central keyword in the book of Qohelet, which the author uses in an idiosyncratic and enigmatic way. Interpretative models for understanding the word, as well as different suggested translations are numerous. The most important of these are presented from a historical and systematical perspective. The use of the word in the OT outside of Qohelet will also be considered.

It is the assumption of this paper, that Qohelet uses hebel in a plurivalent way with multiple allusions. In exploring possible connotations of the word, the context of Hellenistic philosophy should not be overlooked. Central concepts and ideas in Hellenistic philosophy are analyzed in relation to hebel, which may enrich our understanding of how the author of the book uses the word.