John Ritzema – brief summary of doctoral project.

My doctoral project is an investigation of the relationship between theophany and the Judahite cult as remembered (or, perhaps, invented) in the Hebrew Bible, and grew out of an MPhil project on the implicit theology of revelation in Isaiah 6. I build upon recent work on divine epiphanies in early Greek literature, and on the growing corpus of research on divine bodies in the Bible, to explore how in some texts (e.g. Isaiah 6; Ezekiel's vision; Pss 18, 24, etc.; Exodus 24) the cult provides the implicit theological framework in which claims to visual experience of a deity might make sense. My methodology involves some comparative work with theophanic texts and iconography in the Eastern Mediterranean, understood with reference to elements of Julia Kristeva's theory of intertextuality, and develops the classicist Verity Platt's model of the 'semitoics of epiphany'.