OTSEM
OLD TESTAMENT STUDIES: EPISTEMOLOGIES AND METHODS

A NORDIC-GERMAN NETWORK FOR OLD TESTAMENT STUDIES

Minutes

From the Second Meeting of the Steering Committee Granavolden, 12 December 2004

Room 75, 18:00 to 19:16 hours. Present were
(a) members of the Steering Committee: Terje Stordalen, Else K. Holt, Hermann Spieckermann, Timo Veijola;
(b) network node contacts Hans M. Barstad and Fredrik Lindström;
(c) for the Local Committee of Göttingen: Corinna Körting.

1) Evaluation of the First Annual Conference

a) A preliminary reading of the evaluation forms handed in by junior members on 12 December indicates in general a good evaluation. The average overall rating of the conference is “B: Very good”.
b) The organization of the conference and the possibility of getting in touch with senior and junior researches is seen as excellent by most (but not all) doctoral and post doctoral students.
c) The program is on average rated as ‘very good’, although the impression also is that it has been a little tight. The Local Committee for the Second Annual Conference will take this into account.
d) The overall evaluation of the lectures seems to be “C:” Good, but there are some remarks on individual lectures.
e) The overall evaluation of the short papers presented is somewhere between B and C. (Opinions on this subject vary from A to D.)
f) On short paper responses and discussion, the average is around “C: Good”. Individual marks vary from A to E, and some submitted remarks call for attention. Some measures have been taken (cf. below).
g) As were to be expected, individual members give diverse ratings on the issues of the benefit of the conference for their research project and for them as researchers. The average is C on the first and B on the second.

Suggestions by the Steering Committee

• The Second Annual Meeting would preferably have a panel discussion on methodological issues, for instance on a 'pilot text' to which is applied different approaches. The Local Committee in Göttingen takes this into consideration.

• New instructions for short paper respondents and contributors
  - A contribution would normally be no more than 15 pages.
  - In addition, each contributor will supply a short presentation of the paper and the doctoral project (1-2 pages). This is the presentation read at the opening of the short paper session, and it is expected that all participants read these small presentations.
  - Each contribution should have a brief preface stating what she or he would like to see as the prime focal points of discussion.
  - It is recommended that contributor and respondent communicate before the conference. They should together determine primary subject matter for the discussion, the respondent could ask for additional information on the doctoral project (if necessary), etc.
  - Respondents would preferably give some feedback to the contributor about their respondence *before* the actual short paper session.
  - It is important that respondents and other seminar participants attempt first to respond to the actual paper as presented before discussing other conceivable approaches to the subject.
  - English proficiency is not an issue in responses.
  - If a respondent feels unable to respond to an assigned short paper, a different respondent will be appointed.

• Distribution of members in parallel seminars
  - Doctoral and postdoctoral students should have the freedom to attend whichever short paper they find profitable
  - It is a good rule to primarily visit papers presented by students from other institutions and nations
  - The Local Committee will appoint some professors as responsible for sitting in on any less visited short paper session

2) The Second Annual Conference

The conference will be held in Göttingen either 21 – 24 or 22 – 25 May 2004, depending upon airfare regulations and hotel options. The conference venue will be University premises, and accommodations will be in the Eden Hotel.

The Local Committee will inquire about hotel and conference venue options. The local nodes will start investigating travel option and prices as soon as possible and report to Terje Stordalen.

Final information on dates and further information on programs will be posted on the OTSEM Website as soon as possible.

The Local Committee is already working on the programme. A call for papers will go out when financial and practical problems have been settled.

3) The Third Annual Conference

Our Aarhus members will arrange the conference on Mon 29 May to Thur 1 June 2006. Further information on Conference venue and program will be posted on the OTSEM Website as soon as possible.

2004-12-12 TS