OTSEM
OLD TESTAMENT STUDIES: EPISTEMOLOGIES AND METHODS

A NORDIC-GERMAN NETWORK FOR OLD TESTAMENT STUDIES

Minutes

From the First Meeting of the Steering Committee
Tallinn, 19 March 2004

1) Five year program for the Annual Conferences

• The annual conferences will be held in spring / early summer each year, except for the first, which is scheduled to 10 – 13 December 2004. Precise dates for the conferences are presently being negotiated. Final dates will be communicated as soon as they are decided upon.
• Each annual conference will focus a different area or theme of OT Studies. That theme will be focused in invited lectures by network professors. Suggestions for invitations to the first three conferences have been made. Results of invitations are communicated as soon as they are ready.
• Short papers by doctoral and postdoctoral students are thematically open. We invite our contributors to focus upon methodological or epistemological issues in their work.
• The five-year cycle looks like this:

Year	Institution	Theme
2004	NLST	Prophecy
2005	Göttingen	Biblical Law
2006	Aarhus	Biblical Poetry
2007	Helsinki	Wisdom Literature
2008	Lund	Old Testament Theology

2) The First Annual Conference at Granavolden, 10 – 13 December 2004

• Discussions were made and a Preliminary Programme was put down. This Programme is found at the end of the minutes.
• Some short paper sessions will be split in two or three parallel sessions (depending upon number of participating papers). To even out attendance, there will be a maximum number of allowed participants in each of the split sessions.
• Further preparations to be done by the Local Committee in Oslo – in close cooperation with the Steering Committee.

3) Network Economy Issues

• We have received from NorFA NOK 272.000 for each of the first three years, with a possibility of prolongation for an additional two years. Most of this money will go to the Annual Conferences. Some will be needed to arrange meetings in the Steering Committee (normally; once between the Annual Conferences). Also, some might be needed to facilitate German students' exchange within the network.
• Professor exchange and other activities will have to be funded from other sources than NorFA. (See more below).
• For the First Annual Conference, these stipulations were made:
  - OTSEM covers expenses for participation, housing and meals during the conference for every network participant
  - Participants that are unable to cover their travel costs may apply for coverage of parts of these expenses as well. It is, however, expected that most institutions will contribute substantially to cover travel costs.

4) Orientation on Network Website

The OTSEM website is online at www.mf.no/otsem.
There is also created a closed website section for members only. Unfortunately, software problems are presently obstructing proper access to that part. Updates will follow as soon as progress is made. Much future communication is anticipated to make use of this closed website.

4) Daily Academic Exchange in the Network.

The closed member website section offers possibilities for member's interaction. We would like to offer these possibilities, but would also stress that one contributes according to individual opportunity, need and decision.

5) Student Exchange in the Network.

NorFA gives grants for doctoral students to travel to other institutions in the network. If you wish to make use of this option, please contact Terje Stordalen.

6) Professor Exchange in the Network

The first professor exchange within the network took place as Prof. Spieckermann visited Prof. Veijola and the Helsinki doctoral seminar in March 2003. Prof. Spieckermann reports that there is Bruxelles funding (Erasmus) that is relatively easily available for this kind of exchange. We strongly encourage our member institutions to make similar arrangements bilaterally!
Please remember to report exchange activity to the Network leader.

TS, ultimo March 2004

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First OTSEM Annual Conference

Granavolden, Norway 10 – 13 December 2004

Suggested Programme

Friday 10 December

11:00 – 13:00	Arrival and check-in	
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:15 – 16:00	Plenary session Welcome, Orientations Invited Lecture	
16:00	Coffee break +	
16:30 – 17:15	Short papers; three parallel sessions	(3 papers)
17:30 – 18:15	Short papers; three parallel sessions	(3 papers)
18:30	Dinner	
	Social hours. Evening prayer.	

Saturday 11 December

08:00	Morning prayer	
08:30	Breakfast	
10:15 – 11:00	Short paper; joint session	(1 paper)
11:15 – 12:00	Short paper; joint session	(1 paper)
12:00	Lunch	
13:00 – 14:00	Invited Lecture	
14:00	Coffee break +	
14:30 – 15:15	Short papers; split sessions	(3 papers)
15:30 – 16:15	Short papers; split sessions	(3 papers)
17:00	Dinner	
18:15 – 19:00	Orientations and discussion on OTSEM member web site	
19:30	Cultural happening of some sort	
	Social hours.	

Sunday 12 December

08:00	Morning prayer	
09:00	Breakfast	
10:15 – 11:00	Short paper; joint session	(1 paper)
11:15 – 12:00	Short paper; joint session	(1 paper)
12:00	Lunch	
12:45 – 16:30	Sight seeing or outing of some sort	
16:30	Dinner	
18:00 – 18:45	Short paper; joint session	(1 paper)
19:00 – 20:00	Evening address	
	Social hours	

Monday 13 December

08:00	Morning prayer	
08:30	Breakfast	
09:30 – 11:00	First OTSEM Business Meeting	
11:30	Lunch, and then departure	

Information:

- As for now, all stipulations as to meal hours etc. are made without approval from Granavolden Giæstgiveri. Adjustments may be necessary
- Options on culture and sightseeing have not been checked
- Travel time:
  - Travel by car to Oslo Airport Gardermoen; around 40 minutes
  - Travel by train from Oslo Central (infrequent schedules): 1 hr 30 min
  - Travel by car from Oslo harbour; around 1 hr 15 minutes
  - Travel by car from Larvik harbour; around 3 hr 15-30 minutes