UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Faculty of Divinity

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Professor Anne Katrine de Hemmer Gudme
Faculty of Theology
University of Oslo
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Application to Join OTSEM

Dear Professor Gudme, dear members of the OTSEM steering committee,

I am writing to you to express an interest in Cambridge joining the OTSEM network. The proposal to apply to the OTSEM has the support of our Old Testament subject committee, including my colleagues, Professor Jim Aitken and Professor Katharine Dell, and the Board of the Faculty of Divinity.

The University of Cambridge has a long and distinguished history of scholarship in Hebrew and Old Testament. The Regius Professorship of Hebrew, for example, was established in 1540 under Henry VIII. Teaching in our field continues to this day in both the Faculty of Divinity and the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. There are also Old Testament specialists in the constituent colleges of the university as well as the various denominational theological colleges affiliated with the University and the Faculty of Divinity. As well as a long history of teaching in the subject, the University of Cambridge has outstanding research resources, most importantly the Taylor-Schechter Cairo Genizah Collection based at the University Library.

The study of the Old Testament as a religious and historic text mostly takes place within the Faculty of Divinity where three University Teaching Officers hold permanent appointments.

Professor James Aitken has research interests in the text and language of the Hebrew Bible, and in the literature and history of ancient Judaism. A particular area of research currently is the Greek version of the Bible (the Septuagint), including its language, exegesis and place within second temple Jewish society. He also works on Hebrew semantics and upon issues in ancient Jewish literature and history.

Professor Katharine Dell has published extensively on the wisdom literature of the Hebrew Bible and is currently working on a commentary on Ecclesiastes, a theology of Proverbs and a wider biblical theology.

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Professor Nathan MacDonald works on the Pentateuch and matters to do with the Israelite cult. He is currently writing a monograph on the representation of power and the priesthood in the priestly literature. His other writing projects focus on the history of the Israelite priesthood, the dynamics of ritual innovation in ancient Israel and early Judaism, and a commentary on Exodus 25–40.

Recent postdoctoral researchers in the Faculty have included Dr Marieke Dhont and Dr Paul Kurtz, and there are currently thirteen doctoral students working in the area.

Within the wider context of the university, the following scholars are also active in research on Hebrew and the Old Testament: Professor Geoffrey Khan and Dr Aaron Hornkohl (Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies), Revd Dr Megan Daffern, Dr Marieke Dhont, and Dr Hilary Marlow (constituent colleges of the university), Revd Dr Olga Fabricant-Burke, Dr Alison Gray, and Revd Dr Naomi Wormell (affiliated theological colleges).

Two of our colleagues, Professor MacDonald and Dr Megan Daffern, participated in the OTSEM in their previous employments at member institutions. They are conscious of the various benefits that membership of the OTSEM brings and the expectations upon members. We can see the advantages that membership of OTSEM would bring to Old Testament researchers in Cambridge and hope that Cambridge's accession would be regarded as a positive enhancement to the network.

Thank you for your consideration,



Professor Nathan MacDonald