

SOTS Essay Prize

The Society for Old Testament Study (SOTS) seeks to award each year an Essay Prize of £500 for an original piece of published or unpublished research. If the essay has not already been published, the award entails editorial support for publication. The award is made in memory of Elizabeth Harper, who served as the Society's Conference Secretary for many years and who left to the Society a bequest which currently funds this prize.

Eligibility

The competition is open to current doctoral students and to early-career scholars within five years of the viva examination (extensions are possible in special circumstances, such as extended illness or parental leave within that five-year period). Entrants may be members of the Society in their own right at the time of the submission of the essay, or, if not a member, are having or have had their doctorate supervised by a member of the Society. It is expected that essays will be concerned with topics related to Old Testament/Hebrew Bible studies. It is not possible for any individual to win the SOTS essay prize more than once.

Submission

A call for submissions will be made each year during the Society's online Winter Meeting and be posted on the Society's website, as well as being notified through electronic communications and on social media. Essays should be submitted to the SOTS Secretary by the time of the Society's Summer Meeting and the winner will be announced at the following Winter Meeting. Essays are to be of a publishable standard, and not more than 10,000 words in length, including footnotes. If the essay has already been published or submitted for publication, it should be submitted in whatever form it originally had before peer review has taken place. All submissions need to be fully anonymised and open with an indication of the final word count as well as with a short statement that identifies the eligibility of the submitting author. Co-authored essays may be submitted, so long as both/all co-authors satisfy the eligibility criteria. If the winning essay is a co-authored one, then the prize money will be shared equally amongst the authors.

Review Process

Each essay submitted will be reviewed by a small group of qualified SOTS members. Besides the retiring, current, and incoming presidents, two further SOTS members will be selected by the SOTS Committee for this task. The panel will elect the winner and forward their recommendation to the Secretary for approval by the Committee prior to the commencement of the online Winter Meeting. The Society reserves the right to offer the prize in a shared format as well as not to make an award if no suitable submission is received in any given year.

Publication

It is anticipated — in the case of a winning entry which has not already been published, or accepted for publication — that an offer of publication in the *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* or another suitable outlet will normally be made, subject to the consent of the author(s), and at the discretion of the Editors of the journal. Further, the winner(s) will be encouraged to offer a version of the paper at a Meeting of SOTS, such a proposal to be given priority by the Programme Sub-Committee, where possible.