

## Details on Project: Bible interpretation in children's literature

### Focus Area

OTHER

### Particulars of Applicant

Project Leader	Dr Jackie (JS) Du Toit
Faculty	The Humanities
Department/Unit/ Centre	Language Management and Language Practice

### Proposal Details

Title	<b>Bible interpretation in children's literature: The transfer and interpretation of bible (religious) knowledge</b>
Description	<p>This project considers the visual and literary representation of the bible in children's literature, primarily in South Africa. Where applicable, comparisons are drawn to similar religious communities globally. The objective is to establish how a formerly colonial text became translated and indigenized by a diverse network of South African religious communities. Which visual and literary imagery translated best to become part of South African indigenous knowledge? And, with the emphasis of the South African constitution on language rights, the question has to be asked to what extent access is established for the younger constituency to retrieve biblical imagery in their mother tongue or is English the preferred language of discourse for religious instruction in the home? What is the influence of the publishing industry on the nature and prevalence of religion in children's books? The aim is to set guidelines for libraries and publishers, with possible suggestions language policy for government.</p> <p>1. Du Toit, JS, Lamprecht, A &amp; Schmidt, L. Children and the transfer of religious instruction in oral, visual and literary texts. <i>Journal for Semitics</i> 16/2 (2007): 289-296.</p> <p>2. Du Toit, JS &amp; Beard, L. The publication of children's bibles in indigenous South African languages: an investigation into the current state of affairs. <i>Journal for Semitics</i> 16/2 (2007): 297-311.</p> <p>3. Du Toit, JS. In the eyes of the beholder: tradition, text and gender identity. <i>Journal for Semitics</i> 15/2 (2006): 259-277.</p> <p>4. Klopper, F. "Of all things upon the earth that bleed and grow, the herb most bruised is woman": Israelite woman as object of carnal knowledge. <i>Journal for Semitics</i> 15/2 (2006): 337-348.</p> <p>5. Du Toit, JS &amp; Beard, L. "A cognitive poetics perspective on the translation of bible stories for children." Co-authorship: Drs JS du Toit &amp; L Beard, <i>META</i> 50/4, 2005: n.p.</p> <p>6. Du Toit, JS &amp; Beard, L. "'Room of Requirement': The interplay of visual and conceptual space in biblical literature for children". Co-authorship: Drs JS du Toit &amp; L Beard, <i>Old Testament Essays</i> 18/3, 2005:567-578.</p> <p>Accepted chapters in books:</p> <p>1. Du Toit, JS. "These loving fathers": infanticide and the politics of memory. In: "From Ebla to Stellenbosch": Palestinian religions and the Hebrew bible". ADPV series. Published by Harrassowitz. Eds. H Niehr, I Cornelius &amp; L Jonker. Set for publication 2008.</p> <p>2. Du Toit, JS. "Content follows context": the translation of the bible for children. In: <i>Translating the verbal and the visual in children's literature</i>. Eds. M Gonzalez Davies &amp; Riitta Oittinen. Published by Cambridge Scholars Press. Set for publication in 2008.</p> <p>DUUR VAN PROJEK/ DURATION OF PROJECT Duration is not limited to a time period. NRF Thuthuka funding will desist in two years' time (end of 2010).</p>

**Partners**

- Dr Jason Kalman (Hebrew Union College, USA): Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Jewish Studies, Qumran)
- Dr Ryan Byrne ((Rhodes College, USA): Ancient Near Eastern Studies; Archaeology)
- Dr Jaco Gericke ((University of Pretoria, SA): Ancient Near Eastern Studies)
- Dr Vrinda Narain ((University of Toronto, Canada): International Law; Multiculturalism and Women in Religion)
- Dr Helene Strauss ((McMaster University, Canada): Gender, Language & Literature)

**Members**

Dr Annette Evans  
Dr Frances Klopper