

Jeroen Verrijssen

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Heppen, Belgium

1 Education / Work Experience

1.1 Higher Education

Postdoctoral Researcher in History – Ghent University, Ghent Centre for Late Antiquity

Jul 2025 – current

Employment as a Postdoctoral researcher within the ERC Advanced Grant (Horizon 2023) “New Politics: Political Thought in the First Millennium”, under the leadership of Prof. dr. Peter Van Nuffelen. My Postdoc project focuses on concepts of legacy and genealogies across Hebrew, Aramaic, Syriac, and Arabic sources.

(<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101140903>)

Postdoctoral Researcher in Jewish Studies – KU Leuven

Dec 2024 – Jun 2025

Employment as a Postdoctoral researcher within the ERC Consolidator Grant (Horizon 2020) “A New Approach to the Evolution of Texts Based on the Manuscripts of the Targums” (TEXTEVOLVE) under the leadership of Prof. dr. Hector Patmore, which seeks to understand how, when, and why the texts of the Targums evolved over time.

(<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/818702>)

PhD in Textual Criticism of the Aramaic Targums (Highest Honors) – KU Leuven

Sep 2020 – Nov 2024

Promotor: Prof. dr. Hector Patmore; Co-promotor: Prof. dr. Pierre Van Hecke.

Targums are the Aramaic translations of the Hebrew Bible composed somewhere in the first centuries C.E. My PhD subproject focused on the Targum units contained in medieval liturgical manuscripts (*mahzorim*) and investigated how they relate to the broader corpus of Targum. This involves the collection, transcription, and alignment of over 40 manuscripts using OCR (eScriptorium) and alignment software (CollateX, Dicta), followed by a text-critical analysis of the textual variants. (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/818702>)

Dissertation: *The Medieval European Liturgical Targum: A Text-Critical Study of Targum in Mahzorim*

Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature [English & Hebrew] (Highest Honors) – KU Leuven

Sep 2018 – Jun 2020

Advisor: Prof. dr. Kathleen Abraham

Thesis: *Aramaic Lexical Innovation in Seleucid Cuneiform Documents*

Bachelor of Arts Linguistics and Literature [English & Hebrew] (Honors) – KU Leuven

Sep 2016 – Jun 2019

Advisor: Prof. dr. Kathleen Abraham

Thesis: *Direct Speech in Neo-Babylonian Legal Documents*

Bachelor of Arts in International Business Communication (Dean's List) – Vesalius College, Brussels

Sep 2013 – May 2016

1.2 Secondary Education

- High School (2011-2012): Istanbul International Community School (Istanbul, Turkey)
- High School (2008-2011): Atlanta International School (Atlanta, Georgia, United States)
- Grade School (2004-2008): St. Columban School (Cincinnati, Ohio, United States)
- Grade School (2000-2004): Cardinal Pacelli School (Cincinnati, Ohio, United States)
- Primary School (1997-2000): British School of Warsaw (Warsaw, Poland)

2 Academic Positions

Junior Visiting Scholar – University of Oxford, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies

Jan 2024 – Mar 2024

The OCHJS is the leading research centre for academic Jewish Studies in Europe. During my stay in Oxford, I was able to meet with members of the OCHJS and discuss my research, as well as consult the manuscripts related to my doctoral research in the Bodleian Library and other libraries around the UK. (<https://www.ochjs.ac.uk>)

Executive Board Member and Editor – International Organization for Targumic Studies (Amsterdam, Netherlands)

Jul 2022 – ongoing

The International Organization for Targumic Studies is constituted for the study of the targumim, ancient Jewish translations of Hebrew Bible into Aramaic, from any academic approach, methodology or purpose. It also includes the study of subjects related to research into the targumim. (www.targum.info)

Chairman – *Ex Oriente Lux* (Belgium)

Oct 2022 – ongoing

Ex Oriente Lux is an academic society that organizes lectures about the (Ancient) Near East for a broader public in the Netherlands and Belgium. My job as chairman constitutes organizing, advertising, and facilitating 4-5 guest lectures per academic year with a broad range of topics. (www.exorientelux.nl)

3 Publications

Monograph:

- Verrijssen, J. *The Liturgical Targum* (Leiden: Brill, forthcoming) – submitted to *Supplements to Aramaic Studies* (Feb 2025), accepted and in proofs stage.

Articles / chapters:

- Verrijssen, J. 'The Liturgical Targum to Pesach', *Aramaic Studies* 21.2 (2023), pp. 166-84.
- Verrijssen, J. 'A Story Held Together by Bones: A Medieval Expansion to Ex 13:17', *Theology Research News* (2024). <https://theo.kuleuven.be/apps/press/theologyresearchnews/2024/02/05/a-story-held-together-by-bones-a-medieval-expansion-to-ex-1317/>
- H.M. Patmore, S. Efrati, and J. Verrijssen, 'Aramaic from Antiquity to the Middle Ages', in J. Olszowy-Schlanger and C. Merchán-Hamann (eds.), *Jewish Languages and Book Culture* (Oxford: Bodleian Library, 2024), pp. 31-47.
- Verrijssen, J. 'On the Shores of the Red Sea: A Medieval Reconstruction of Palestinian Targum?', in H.M. Patmore, H. Najman, S. Schorch, J. Verrijssen, and H. van der Schoor (eds.), *Reading: Performance and Materiality in Hebrew and Aramaic Traditions* (Cambridge Semitic Languages and Cultures, Cambridge: Open Book, 2025), 385-404.

- Verrijssen, J. 'Targums to the Pentateuch in Liturgical Manuscripts', in A. Otero and P. Morales (eds.), *Handbook of Biblical Manuscripts* (Leiden: Brill, forthcoming 2025), pp-pp.
- E. Arrant, and J. Verrijssen, 'Pairwise Genetic Sequence Alignment Algorithms to Measure Textual Similarity', *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities*, (forthcoming 2025), pp-pp.

Edited volumes:

- H.M. Patmore, H. Najman, S. Schorch, J. Verrijssen, and H. van der Schoor (eds.), *Reading: Performance and Materiality in Hebrew and Aramaic Traditions* (Cambridge Semitic Languages and Cultures; Cambridge: University of Cambridge and Open Book, 2025).

Conference Presentations:

- *'Lost Texts' Colloquium* (KU Leuven) – Sep 2024
'The Liturgical Targum: A Case Study for Digital Tools'
- *International Organization for Targumic Studies* Conference (SBL International Meeting – Amsterdam) – July 2024
Chair: 'Targums and other (Con)Texts'
- *Ex Oriente Lux* (België) – Dec 2023
'Textual Corruption as Renovation in Light of the Targums' [in Dutch]
- 'Reading: Performance and Materiality in Hebrew and Aramaic Traditions' Conference (Oriël College, Oxford) – Oct 2023
'On the Shores of the Red Sea: A Medieval Reconstruction of Palestinian Targum?'
- *International Organization for Targumic Studies* Conference (SBL International Meeting - Salzburg) – Jul 2022
'The Liturgical Targum to the Seventh Day of Pesach'
- *European Association of Biblical Studies* Conference (Wuppertal) – Aug 2021
'The Medieval Targum Tradition for Ex 13:17'

Interviews:

- 'The Medieval European Liturgical Targum: A Text-Critical Study of Targum in Mahzorim', *Theology Research News* (published April 28, 2025). <https://theo.kuleuven.be/apps/press/theologyresearchnews/2025/04/28/the-medieval-european-liturgical-targum/>

4 Other Relevant Experience

Teaching Experience:

- Biblical Theology: Old Testament – 2025
- Hebrew 1a (coordinating and teaching) – 2024, 2025
- Textual History of the Old Testament (coordinating and teaching) – 2022, 2024
- Exegetical Methodology (guest lecture) – 2021, 2023
- Classical Hebrew Grammar (guest lecture) – 2023
- Introduction to Judaism (guest lecture) – 2020, 2023

Training:

- École Pratique des Hautes Études (Paris, France) – Nov 2022 – May 2023
Hebrew Manuscripts in the Digital Age: Palaeography, Edition, Cataloguing
- Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel) – Jun 2019 – Sep 2019
Ulpan Modern Hebrew
- Venice International University – Jul 2018
Summer School Sumerian and Akkadian

Languages:

- English – Fluent (native)
- Dutch – Fluent (native)
- French – Professional working proficiency
- Hebrew – Professional working proficiency
- Arabic – Moderate proficiency
- Akkadian (predominantly Neo-Babylonian)

Skills:

- Microsoft Office Suite – Professional working proficiency
- Adobe Acrobat – Professional working proficiency
- Python – Professional working proficiency
- eScriptorium (Manuscript OCR and automated transcription) – Professional working proficiency
- Dicta (Automated text-alignment) – Professional working proficiency
- HebrewPal digital palaeography – Professional working proficiency