

# Bronson Brown-deVost, PhD

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## Current Position

**2021–present** — Semitist and IT Specialist, *Qumran-Digital: Text und Lexikon* (DFG, Project No. 465277421), Niedersächsische Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen. Technical lead of the Qumran Digital Lexicon. Full-stack development; over 250 original and 450 revised lexicon entries.

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## Education

**Ph.D., Near Eastern and Judaic Studies** — Brandeis University, 2015 Dissertation: *Commentary and Authority in Mesopotamia and Qumran*. Committee: I. Tzvi Abusch, Marc Zvi Brettler, Sidnie White Crawford, David P. Wright. Awarded the Nahum and Anne Glatzer Endowed Prize for Outstanding PhD Dissertation. Comprehensives in Hebrew Bible (with distinction), Akkadian, and Northwest Semitic Languages.

**M.A., Northwest Semitics / Hebrew Bible** — The Catholic University of America, 2007 Passed MA comprehensives in Classical Ethiopic and Aramaic. Completed PhD comprehensives in Akkadian and Biblical Hebrew.

**B.A., Classical Languages and Literature** — Loyola Marymount University, 2004 *Cum Laude*. Outstanding Graduate in Classics. Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit Honors Society.

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## Professional Experience

**2021** — Researcher, *eRabbinica* and *eScriptorium*, École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris.

**2018–2021** — Project Manager, *Scripta Qumranica Electronica*, German-Israeli Project Cooperation.

**2016–2021** — Post-Doctoral Researcher, *Scripta Qumranica Electronica*, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen.

**2011–2016** — Lecturer (Adjunct Professor), Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, Brandeis University.

**2010–2016** — Research Assistant, Brandeis University (Prof. Tzvi Abusch).

## Monograph

Brown-deVost, Bronson. *Commentary and Authority in Mesopotamia and Qumran*. Journal of Ancient Judaism Supplement Series 29. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2019.

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## Lexicographic Contributions

Steudel, Annette / Bokhorst, Mirjam / Brown-deVost, Bronson. Over 250 original lexicon entries in *Qumran-Digital: Text und Lexikon* (<https://lexicon.qumran-digital.org>), 2025–2026.

Kottsieper, Ingo / Steudel, Annette. Revised by Steudel, Annette / Bokhorst, Mirjam / Brown-deVost, Bronson. Over 450 revised lexicon entries in *Qumran-Digital: Text und Lexikon*, 2025–2026.

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## Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

Brown-deVost, Bronson, Berat Kurar-Barakat, and Nachum Dershowitz. "Segmenting Dead Sea Scroll Fragments for a Scientific Image Set." arXiv:2406.15692 (2024).

Brown-deVost, Bronson. "The Death of the Gods in the Old Greek Translation of Job." *Journal of Septuagint and Cognate Studies* (2022).

Brown-deVost, Bronson. "What has Esther to Do with Qumran?" *Dead Sea Discoveries* (2022).

Brown-deVost, Bronson. "Automated Font Generation." Pages 112–116 in *Material and Digital Reconstruction of Fragmentary Dead Sea Scrolls* (ed. Jonathan Ben-Dov, Asaf Gayer, and Eshbal Ratzon; STDJ 136; Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2022).

Stökl Ben Ezra, Daniel, Bronson Brown-deVost, Pawel Jablonski, Hayim Lapin, Benjamin Kiessling, and Elena Lolli. "BibLIA — a General Model for Medieval Hebrew Manuscripts and an Open Annotated Dataset." *HIP@ICDAR* (2021).

Stökl Ben Ezra, Daniel, Bronson Brown-deVost, and Pawel Jablonski. "Exploiting Insertion Symbols for Marginal Additions in the Recognition Process to Establish Reading Order." *ICDAR* (2021).

Brown-deVost, Bronson. "4QMMT." In *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*. Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter (2021).

Stökl Ben Ezra, Daniel, Bronson Brown-deVost, Nachum Dershowitz, Alexey Pechorin, and Benjamin Kiessling. "Transcription Alignment for Highly Fragmentary Historical Manuscripts: The Dead Sea Scrolls." *ICFHR* (2020): 361–366.

Brown-deVost, Bronson. "The Transmission History of 2 Kings 21:13b." *Vetus Testamentum* 70/3 (2020): 383–395.

Brown-deVost, Bronson. "1 Samuel 2:13–16 in the Context of Mediterranean Tariff Texts." *Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft* 130/4 (2018): 545–558.

Brown-deVost, Bronson, and Annette Steudel. "Aus der Höhle in die digitale Welt." *Welt und Umwelt der Bibel* 1/18 (2018): 42–47.

Brown-deVost, Bronson. "Scripta Qumranica Electronica (2016–2021)." *Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel* (2016): 307–315.

Brown-deVost, Bronson. "The Compositional Development of Qumran Pesharim in Light of Mesopotamian Commentaries." *Journal of Biblical Literature* 135 (2016): 525–541.

Brown-deVost, Bronson. "4QEnc (4Q204) Column I: A New Reconstruction." In *From Enoch to Montréal and Back: New Vistas on Early Judaism and Christianity* (ed. Lorenzo DiTommaso and Gerbern S. Oegema; London/New York: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2016).

## Reviews

Brown-deVost, Bronson. Review of Gaines, Jason M.H., *The Poetic Priestly Source*, Minneapolis: Fortress, 2015. In *Biblical Interpretation* (2018).

Brown-deVost, Bronson. Review of del Olmo Lete, Gregorio, *Incantations and Anti-Witchcraft Texts from Ugarit*, SANER 4, Boston/Berlin: De Gruyter, 2014. In *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (2015).

Brown-deVost, Bronson. Review of Müller, Reinhard, Juha Pakkala, and Bas ter Haar Romeny, *Evidence of Editing*. In *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures*.

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## Presentations and Invited Lectures

"Current Approaches to the Computational Analysis of Hebrew Manuscript Data." From Manuscript to Screen, Hochschule für Jüdische Studien Heidelberg, January 2025.

"The Demotic Chronicle and the Qumran Pesharim: Purpose, Methods, and Genre." Egyptian Demotic Papyri and the Dead Sea Scrolls, ERC "DEMBIB", Berlin, May 2024.

"Creating Collaborative Editions of Dead Sea Scrolls." Invited lecture, Digital Humanities Series, Ohio State University, April 2024.

"Digital-Humanities in Realtime." Invited lecture, Digital Humanities Series, Ohio State University, April 2024.

"Scripta Qumranica Electronica and Qumran Digital." OpenITI AOC, University of Maryland, June 2023.

"Automatically linking Dead Sea Scroll transcriptions to fragment images." (with N. Dershowitz, D. Stökl Ben Ezra, B. Kurar), IOQS, Zurich, August 2022.

"On the Critical Digital Edition: Scripta Qumranica Electronica." Annual Meeting of the SBL (online), December 2020.

"Introduction to the Documentary Texts and Literary Interpretation Unit." Annual Meeting of the SBL (online), November 2020.

"Editing the Dead Sea Scrolls in the SQE VRE." VREs and Ancient Manuscripts Conference, Lausanne, September 2020.

"Digital Exploration of the Dead Sea Scrolls with SQE." DSS in Recent Scholarship, NYU (online), May 2020.

"SQE and the (Hu)man Behind the Curtain." Human-Machine Cooperation, Ariel University, February 2020.

"Reading 4Q51 through SQE." Annual Meeting of the SBL, San Diego, November 2019.

"Reading SpBTU III 72 as Florilegium." 64th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, Innsbruck, July 2018.

"Digitale Editionen von fragmentarische Handschriften: Das Projekt SQE." 33rd Deutscher Orientalistentag, September 2017.

"Das Projekt SQE: Texte, Bilder, und Datenbank." 33rd Deutscher Orientalistentag, September 2017.

"Textual Authority and the Dead Sea Scrolls: Then and Now." Brandeis University, September 2017.

"In and Between the Lines of 1 Samuel 2:11-18." International SBL/EABS, Berlin, August 2017.

"A Compositional History of Psalm 136." Doktorandenkolloquium, Göttingen, December 2016.

"Let's Read the Vulgate: 2 Kings 21:13 and Psalm 41:2." Annual Meeting of the SBL, Atlanta, November 2016.

"The Use of Reference Works in Mesopotamian and Qumran Commentaries." Annual Meeting of the SBL, Atlanta, November 2015.

"4QEnc (4Q204) Column I: A New Reconstruction." Fifth Enoch Graduate Seminar, Montreal, May 2014.

"Theoretical Approaches to Reading the Hebrew Bible." Graduate Proseminar, Brandeis University, April 2014.

"Qumran Continuous Pesharim in Light of the Mesopotamian Commentaries." NE/EC Regional SBL, April 2014.

"Textual Development of the Qumran Pesharim." DSS Graduate Symposium, Brandeis University, October 2013. (Awarded best presentation.)

"Jude, Deuteronomy, and the Vassal Treaties of Esarhaddon." Graduate Proseminar, Brandeis University, March 2011.

## Published Software

**float\_next\_after** — Native Rust implementation of next-after for floats (f32/f64). MIT License.

[https://crates.io/crates/float\\_next\\_after](https://crates.io/crates/float_next_after)

**geo-repair-polygon** — Rust crate for repairing invalid polygons per OGC standards. MIT License.

<https://crates.io/crates/geo-repair-polygon>

**geo-validator** — Rust crate for polygon validation per OGC specifications. MIT License.

<https://crates.io/crates/geo-validator>

**geo-wkt-writer** — Rust crate for serializing geo-types geometries to WKT. MIT License.

<https://crates.io/crates/geo-wkt-writer>

**Qumran Digital – Text und Lexicon** — Online lexicon and research portal for the Dead Sea Scrolls.

<https://lexicon.qumran-digital.org>

**text\_alignment\_tool** — Customizable Python pipeline for text alignment tasks. MIT License.

[https://gitlab.com/sofer\\_mahir/text\\_alignment\\_tool](https://gitlab.com/sofer_mahir/text_alignment_tool)

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## Teaching

**Von Teufel, Satan und Dämonen — Das Böse in den Werken von Qumran**, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen (co-taught with M. Bokhorst), WS 2025/26.

**Brandeis University, Lecturer (2011–2016):** Akkadian Epistolary Texts (NEJS 202b) · Akkadian Historical Epic (NEJS 202b) · Dead Sea Scrolls (NEJS 117b) · Déjà lu: Parallel Passages in the Hebrew Bible (NEJS 110b) · Directed Reading in Tanakh (NEJS 346a) · Introductory Akkadian (NEJS 101a) · Qohelet/Ecclesiastes (NEJS 110b) · Readings in Old Babylonian (NEJS 200b).

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## Languages

**Modern:** English (native), German (spoken and reading), French (reading), Hebrew (reading)

**Ancient:** Hebrew (biblical and post-biblical), Aramaic (biblical, Syriac, and all ancient dialects), Akkadian, Classical Ethiopic (Ge'ez), Ancient Greek, Hittite, Latin, Phoenician and Northwest Semitic dialects, Old South Arabian, Ugaritic; basic Sumerian and Arabic

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## Technical Skills

**Programming:** C, Python, Rust, TypeScript/JavaScript, SQL, Perl

**Web:** Full-stack (HTTP/Protobuf REST APIs, WebSockets, JWT Auth, RDBMS), i18n, a11y

**DH Infrastructure:** Cloud hosting (AWS, GCP), Keycloak, CI/CD, Git, Linux, database administration, TEI-XML

**Document Analysis:** Image segmentation, HTR, computational paleography

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## Academic Service

- Reviewer, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), project proposals (2023–2026)

- Reviewer, ADHO Digital Humanities Conference (2023–2025)
- External Advisor, DEAPS, Ohio State University (2024)
- External Advisor, Midrash Project, midrash.eu (2024)
- External Advisor, Biblical Online Synopsis Project, Göttingen/Helsinki (2020)
- Co-chair, Documentary Texts and Literary Interpretation Unit, SBL (2020–2022)
- Executive Committee Member, International Organization for Qumran Studies (2020–2021)