



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Faculty of Theology and Religion

**International Conference on Qumran Literature / Dead Sea Scrolls:
*The Origin of the Sectarian Movement in the Dead Sea Scrolls***

Hosted jointly by: Yale Divinity School, Yale University & Department of Old Testament Studies, Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Pretoria,

Hosts:

John J Collins (Holmes Professor: Yale University & Honorary Professor:

University of Pretoria

&

Ananda Geysler-Fouché (University of Pretoria)

24 – 27 May 2020, University of Pretoria, South Africa

The first fifty years or so of Scrolls scholarship was dominated by a consensus that the movement described in the Damascus Document and Community Rule originated in a dispute over the High Priesthood in the mid-second century BCE. In the last two decades or so this consensus has broken down. Scholars increasingly recognize that the formation of the sectarian movement involved a longer and more complicated process than was formerly realized.

The debate has many facets. One concerns the archeology of Qumran and the date of the settlement. Another concerns the nature of the sectarian movement described in the Rule Books, and its relation to the development of sectarianism in late Second Temple Judaism. Another concerns a range of other texts that contain information that is potentially relevant to the question. These include, but are not limited to, the Hodayot and the question of the Teacher hymns, the Pesharim and the identity of the Wicked Priest, and 4QMMT and the dispute about halakhic issues.

The purpose of the conference is to assess the current state of the question on these issues.

In addition, those working on other topics are encouraged to submit papers on any area of Qumran studies for one or more open sessions.

Paper proposals should be sent with the following information: name, academic institution, paper title, and an abstract of no more than 250 words. Abstracts should include explicit mention of the sources that will be discussed, a clearly formulated hypothesis, argument, or research question, and (with the special topic), consideration of which type of context is investigated and related to the scrolls.

Proposals should be submitted before 5 December 2019 per email to: John (john.j.collins@yale.edu) OR Ananda (ananda@up.ac.za) .

For any questions, please contact us.

Yours sincerely

John J Collins & Ananda Geysler-Fouché