

James Riley Strange

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<http://www.samford.edu/arts-and-sciences/excavations-at-shikhin/>

Personal

Married to Laura Strange; one child, Sarah Smythe Pugliese

Current Position

Charles Jackson Granade and Elizabeth Donald Granade Professor in New Testament (tenure, April 2013), Howard College of Arts and Sciences, Samford University.

Education

Ph.D. New Testament and Formative Christianity, Emory University, August 2007.

Dissertation: "The Moral World of James"; advisor: Luke Timothy Johnson

M.A. Religious Studies, Formative Judaism and Christianity, University of South Florida, December 1999.

Thesis: "The Emergence of the Christian Basilica in the Fourth Century"; advisor: Jacob Neusner

M.Div., emphasis in pastoral care, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, December 1991.

B.A. Classics, Furman University, June 1985.

Areas of Research

Archaeology of Palestine from the Hellenistic to Byzantine Periods

The New Testament and Early Christianity in their Greco-Roman and Judaic Environments

Academic Honors and Organizations

Charles Jackson Granade and Elizabeth Donald Granade Chair in New Testament, Howard College of Arts and Sciences, Samford University, 13 September 2017.

Dean's Award for Research, Howard College of Arts and Sciences, Samford University, 5 May 2015.

Theta Kappa Alpha, Alpha Iota Epsilon Chapter, Samford University, 15 April 2008.

Emory University Graduate Fellowship, 2000–2004.

Phi Kappa Phi, Chapter 126, University of South Florida, 21 March 1999.

"High Honors," USF Comprehensive Examinations for Master of Arts, 1999.

Phi Sigma Iota, Furman University, 1984.

Eta Sigma Phi, Furman University, 1983.

Teaching Experience

Samford University, Professor of Biblical and Religious Studies, Fall 2019–Present.

Samford University, Associate Professor of Religion, Fall 2013–Summer 2019.

Samford University, Assistant Professor of Religion, Fall 2007–Summer 2013.

University of South Florida, Tampa campus, Adjunct Instructor, 2004–2005.
 Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, Florida (Program for Experienced Learners), Adjunct Instructor, 2004.
 Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, Adjunct Instructor, 2003–2004; Teaching Assistant and Associate, 2000–2004.
 University of South Florida, Tampa campus, Graduate Teaching Assistant, 1998–1999.

Archaeological Experience

Director, The Shikhin Excavation Project, Israel, 2011–present.
 Co-director (with James F. Strange), The University of South Florida Excavations at Sepphoris, Israel, 2010.
 Field Supervisor, USF Excavations at Sepphoris, 2000 and 2009.
 Area Supervisor, USF Excavations at Sepphoris, 1992–2000, 2009.
 Area Supervisor, Excavations at Tel Migne Ekron, Israel, Spring Season 1994. Seymour Gittin and Trudy Dotan, Directors.

Other Professional Positions

Trustee, Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, Jerusalem, Israel, 2019–2021.
 Anonymous Peer Reviewer, *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*, 2019–2021.
 President, American Schools of Oriental Research, Southeastern Region, 2009–2010; 2015–2016.
 Vice President, American Schools of Oriental Research, Southeastern Region, 2014–2015; 2008–2009.

Works in Progress

- (accepted) “John and the Geography of Palestine.” In Paul N. Anderson, ed. *Archaeology and the Fourth Gospel*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- (under contract): *One Problem After Another: Archaeology, the Gospels, and Understanding First Century Roman Galilee*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- 2020 (anticipated, accepted; prospectus under review by publishing house) “Refugees: The Missing Element in Discussions of the Galilean Economy in the Roman Period.” In Thomas R. Blanton IV, Agnes Choi, and Jinyu Liu, eds. *Taxation and Revolt: Case Studies in the Economies of Ancient Rome, Galilee, and Egypt*. London: Routledge.
- 2020 (anticipated; co-editor with C. Thomas McCollough) *Studies in the Archaeological, Historical, and Literary Context of the New Testament in Honor of the Work of James F. Strange*. Ostrakon Publishing House: Tsemakh, Israel; prospectus accepted.
- 2020 (anticipated; with C. Thomas McCollough) “Introduction.” In C. Thomas McCollough and James Riley Strange, eds. *Studies in the Archaeological, Historical, and Literary Context of the New Testament in Honor of the Work of James F. Strange*. Ostrakon Publishing House: Tsemakh, Israel.
- 2020 (anticipated; with Penny Long Marler) “The American Archaeological Field School in Galilee: Pedagogical Goals, Educational Outcomes, and Participant Impact.” In C. Thomas McCollough and James Riley Strange, eds. *Studies in the Archaeological,*

Historical, and Literary Context of the New Testament in Honor of the Work of James F. Strange. Ostrakon Publishing House: Tsemakh, Israel.

Books Authored

- 2016 (fourth author with James F. Strange, Thomas R. W. Longstaff, and Dennis E. Groh; unpublished manuscript) "The Shikhin Excavation Project Manual for Area Supervisors (Formerly the Excavations at Sepphoris Manual for Area Supervisors)." Available at <https://shikhinexcavationproject.com/>.
- 2010 *The Moral World of James: Setting the Epistle in its Greco-Roman and Judaic Environments.* Studies in Biblical Literature 136. New York: Peter Lang.
- 2000 *The Emergence of the Christian Basilica in the Fourth Century.* Binghamton, NY: Global Publications/State University of New York.

Books Edited

- 2015 (with David A. Fiensy) *Galilee in the Late Second Temple and Mishnaic Periods, Volume 2: Archaeological Record from Galilean Cities, Towns and Villages.* Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press.
- 2014 (with David A. Fiensy) *Galilee in the Late Second Temple and Mishnaic Periods, Volume 1: Life, Culture, and Society.* Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press.

Articles in Scholarly Journals and Collections of Essays

- 2017 (with Mordechai Aviam) "Shihin Excavation Project: Oil Lamp Production at Ancient Shihin." *Strata* 35: 63–99. Linked on-line to "Shikhin lamp kiln," *The Levantine Ceramics Project*. Accessed on 07 June 2018, <https://www.levantineceramics.org/kilns/shikhin-lamp-kiln>.
- 2016 "Shihin–2012." *Hadashot Archeologiyot-Excavations and Surveys in Israel* 128. Available on-line at http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/report_detail_eng.aspx?id=25154&mag_id=124.
- 2015 "Kefar Shikhin." Pages 88–108 in David A. Fiensy and James Riley Strange, eds. *Galilee in the Late Second Temple and Mishnaic Periods, Volume 2: Archaeological Record from Galilean Cities, Towns and Villages.* Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press.
- 2014 and 2015 (with David A. Fiensy) "Introduction to *Galilee: Volumes 1 and 2.*" Pages 1–8 in David A. Fiensy and James Riley Strange, eds. *Galilee in the Late Second Temple and Mishnaic Periods, Volumes 1 and 2.* Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press.
- 2014 "Does Archaeology Generate Questions About Religion?" Pages 298–317 in Daniel Warner and Donald D. Binder, eds. *A City Set on a Hill: Essays in Honor of James F. Strange.* Mountain Home, AR: BorderStone Press, LLC.
- 2012 "Shihin, Survey." *Hadashot Archeologiyot-Excavations and Surveys in Israel* 124. Available on-line at http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/report_detail_eng.aspx?id=2195&mag_id=119.
- 2001 "Christianity: The Fourth Century Christian Basilica." Pages 89–138 in Jacob Neusner and James F. Strange, eds. *Religious Texts and Material Contexts.* Lanham, MD: University Press of America.
- 2001 (Second author with James F. Strange) "The Archaeology of Everyday Life at Qumran." Pages 45–73 in Bruce D. Chilton *et al.*, eds. *Judaism at Qumran: A Systemic*

- Reading of the Dead Sea Scrolls Theory of Israel*. Handbuch der Orientalistik 5/1. Judaism in Late Antiquity vol. 56. Leiden: E. J. Brill.
- 2000 "Urbach's 'Sages' after Thirty Years." *Journal of Higher Criticism* 7.1: 85-92.
- 1999 "Defining Judaism in its Classical Age: What Is at Stake in the Academic Study of Religion." *Journal of Higher Criticism* 6.2: 175-85.
- 1999 "G. F. Moore and E. E. Urbach Revisited." *Annual of Rabbinic Judaism* 2: 141-59.
- 1997 "Even though there exists no explicit documentation for this claim, it is highly probable..." Problems with David Stern's *Parables in Midrash*." Pages 17-21 in *Approaches to Ancient Judaism: New Series*. Vol. 11. Ed. Jacob Neusner. Sub-Series: South Florida Studies in the History of Judaism. Ed. William Scott Green. Atlanta: Scholars Press.

Book Reviews

- 2018 Eric C. Lapp, *Sepphoris II: The Clay Lamps from Ancient Sepphoris: Light Use and Regional Interactions*, *Review of Biblical Literature* [<http://www.bookreviews.org>].
- 2010 Simmons, William A. *Peoples of the New Testament World: An Illustrated Guide*, *Review of Biblical Literature* [<http://www.bookreviews.org>].

Papers Presented at Professional Conferences and Symposia

- 2019 "A Second Century Synagogue at Kefar Shikhin." "Les premières synagogues en Galilée (Ier-IIIe siècles) : nouvelles perspectives." Colloque international à l'Université de Lausanne. Lausanne, Switzerland. 10 April 2019.
- 2018 "Refugees: The Missing Element in Discussions of the Galilean Economy in the Roman Period." Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. Denver, Co. 17 November (read in my absence by Tom McCollough).
- 2018 "A Small Kiln at Kefar Shikhin, Lower Galilee." American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting. Denver, Co. 15 November.
- 2018 "A Kiln Dedicated to Lamp Production? The 2017 Season of the Shikhin Excavation Project." Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion Annual Meeting. Atlanta, Ga. 3 March.
- 2017 "Oil Lamp Production at Kefar Shikhin." Clay Oil Lamps in the Roman Eastern Provinces—Production, Art and Distribution. International Researchers' Symposium Honoring Prof. James F. Strange for his many years of Galilean research. 14 December. Kinneret Academic College, Israel.
- 2017 "Report of the 2016 and 2017 Seasons of the Shihin Excavation Project." American Schools of Oriental Research annual meeting. Boston, Mass. 16 November.
- 2017 "The Coin-ness of Coins: Origen, Archaeology, the New Testament, and the Liberal Arts at Samford University." Inaugural Lecture, Charles Jackson Granade and Elizabeth Donald Granade Chair of New Testament. Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama. 30 October.
- 2017 "Evidence for an Early Roman 2 Synagogue at Kefar Shihin." The 17th World Congress of Jewish Studies." Jerusalem, Israel. 9 August.
- 2017 "Oil Lamp Production at Ancient Shihin." Workshop on Galilean Archaeology. Kinneret Academic College on the Sea of Galilee, Israel. 18 May.

- 2017 (with Penny Long Marler) "The American Archaeological Field School in Galilee: Pedagogical Goals, Educational Outcomes, and Participant Impact." Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion Annual Meeting. Raleigh, NC. 4 March.
- 2016 (with Penny Long Marler) "The American Archaeological Field School in Galilee: Pedagogical Goals, Educational Outcomes, and Participant Impact." Research Symposium: Galilean Archaeology—Research, Education and Religion. Kinneret Academic College, Israel. July 24–July 25.
- 2016 "Four Campaigns at Shikhin: Answers and Questions." American Schools of Oriental Research, Southeastern Region, Presidential Address. Atlanta, Georgia. 5 March.
- 2015 "Report of the 2015 Season of the Shikhin Excavation Project." American Schools of Oriental Research annual meetings, Atlanta, Georgia. 19 November.
- 2014 "Lamp and Pottery Production at a Jewish Galilean Village: A Report of the 2014 Season of the Shikhin Excavation Project." American Schools of Oriental Research annual meetings. San Diego, California. 20 November.
- 2014 "Report of the 2013 Shikhin Excavation Project." Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion annual meeting Atlanta, Georgia, 8 March.
- 2014 (Second author with Mordechai Aviam; read *in absentia* by Mickey Osband) "Evidence for Oil Lamp Production at the Galilean Jewish Village of Shikhin, Near Sepphoris." Roman Pottery in the Near East: Where, Whence, Whither? Second Round Table, Amman, Jordan, February 17.
- 2012 "Preliminary Report of the 2012 Excavations at Shikhin." American Schools of Oriental Research annual meeting. Chicago, Illinois. 15 November.
- 2011 "Archaeology and the Gospel of John." Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting. San Francisco, California. 21 November.
- 2011 "Archaeology and the Epistle of James." Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion annual meeting. Louisville, Kentucky. 5 March.
- 2010 "Economics and the Archaeological Field School: Some Thoughts on the Production and Consumption of Education in the 21st Century." Presidential Address, American Schools of Oriental Research-Southeastern Region annual meeting. Atlanta, Georgia. 6 March.
- 2009 "Digging up Metaphors: A Proposal for the Archaeology of Religion." Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting. 21 November. New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 2008 "Church, Cardo, and Processionals: Constantine's Basilicas as Solid Metaphors," American Schools of Oriental Research annual meeting. November. Boston, Massachusetts.
- 2008 "A Theology of Reconciliation: Sin, Sickness, and Healing in the Epistle of James." Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion annual meeting. March. Atlanta, Georgia.
- 2001 "Building Christianity: The Christian Basilica," Religious Texts and Material Contexts conference. University of South Florida. St. Petersburg, Florida. February.
- 2000 "Artifacts and Texts: Asking the Wrong and the Right Questions in Religious Studies," Integrating Biblical Studies and Archaeology panel discussion. Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion annual meeting. March. Atlanta, Georgia.

- 1999 "The Limitations of Social Models as 'Background' in New Testament Studies: A Critical Reading of Richard Horsley and Bruce Malina." Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion annual meeting. March. Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Entries in Dictionaries and Encyclopedias

- 2006–2009 *The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*. Katharine Doob Sakenfeld, General Editor. Nashville: Abingdon Press. Articles contributed: "Aelius Aristides," "Aemilius Paullus," "Beautiful Gate," "Cauda," "Corner Gate," "Danaos," "Dok," "Dorymenes," "Dried Grapes," "Early Rain, Rains," "En-Shadud," "En-Shemesh," "En-Tappuah," "Ephraim Gate," "Fish Gate," "Benjamin Gate," "Foundation, Gate of the," "Fountain Gate," "Gate between the Two Walls," "Gate of Samaria," "Guard, Gate of the," "Joseph Gate," "Muster Gate," "Naphtali Gate," "New Gate," "Nicanor Gate," "North Gate," "Old Gate," "Potsherd Gate," "Shallecheth, Gate of," "Sheep Gate," "Sur Gate," "Upper Gate."
- 2002 "Ancient Judaism-Modern Syntheses." Pages 1605–1612 in Jacob Neusner *et al.*, eds. *The Encyclopedia of Judaism, Supplement One*. Vol. IV. 4 vols. New York: Continuum.
- 1999 *Merriam-Webster's Encyclopedia of World Religions*. Wendy Doniger, Consulting Editor. Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster, Inc.. Articles edited and/or revised: "Aaron," "Adam and Eve," "Ahab," "Ahaz," "Amalekite," "Amidah," "Ammonite," "Amos," "Anathema," "Ark of the Covenant," "Asher," "Asmodeus," "Balaam," "Benjamin," "Bethel," "Dan," "David," "Eden, Garden of," "Ephraim," "Esau," "Essene," "Gad," "Gedaliah, Fast of," "Gehenna," "Golem," "Get," "Gideon," "Habdalalah," "Hagar," "Hannah," "Hanukkah," "Hasidean," "Heller, Yom Tov Limann ben Nathan ha-Levi," "Hezekiah," "High Priest," "Isaac," "Issachar," "Jacob," "Jehoram," "Jehoshaphat," "Jephthah," "Jeremiah," "Jesse," "Joab," "Joshua," "Judah," "Ketubim," "Kohen," "Leah," "Naphtali," "Nehemiah," "Noahide Laws," "Manasseh," "Manna," "Manual of Discipline," "Mendelssohn, Moses," "Methuselah," "Midianite," "Reuben," "Rosenweig, Franz," "Shema," "Shofar," "Shulhan 'Arukh,'" "Simeon," "Talmud Torah," "Ten Lost Tribes of Israel," "Thirteen Articles of Faith," "Twelve Tribes of Israel," "Uzziah," "Yom Kippur," "Zerubbabel"
- 1994 "Kefar Bar'am." Pages 364–65. "Nizzana." Pages 455–56. "Qasrin." Pages 511–12 in *Macmillan Dictionary of Judaism in the Biblical Period*. Ed. Jacob Neusner. New York: Macmillan.

Book Manuscripts Reviewed or Endorsed

- 2019 (endorsed) Ramos, Alex J. *Torah, Temple, and Transaction: Jewish Religious Institutions and Economic Behavior in Early Roman Galilee*. Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield, 2020 (anticipated).
- 2017 (endorsed) Fiensy, David. *Insights from Archaeology: Reading the Bible in the Twenty-First Century*. Minneapolis, Minn.: Fortress Press.
- 2013 (reviewed) Walker, Donald Dale. *Seeing the Obvious: Seven Theses on the New Testament*. Anselm Academic. Published as *Beyond the Obvious: Doorways to Understanding the New Testament*. Winona, Minn.: Anselm Academic, 2014.

Publications in Popular Media

- 2018 "Judíos y romanos en la Palestina de Jesús." *Desperta Ferro-Arqueología e Historia* 18 (April): 6–11.
- 2015 "Shikhin Excavation with James R. Strange." Interview with Brian Leport posted at Ancient Jew Review Internet Blog. 22 July; http://www.ancientjewreview.com/articles/2015/7/19/shikhin-excavations-with-james-r-strange?utm_content=buffera3908&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer; accessed 13 August 2015.
- 2015 "Galilee in the Time of Jesus." Classical Timeline Project. 30 March; <http://www.classicaltimeline.co.uk/timeline.html>; accessed 13 August 2015.

Grants

- 2009–2016 The Fund for Biblical Archaeology: \$1,000 annually. Total: \$10,000. Funded.
- 2016 Samford University Innovative Technology Grant (with Brian Gregory, Chemistry and Biochemistry): "Provenience Study of Ancient Pottery Using ICP-OES." \$4,000. Funded
- 2016 Samford University Faculty Development Grant (with Brian Gregory, Chemistry and Biochemistry): "Facilitating Student Research and Education in Elemental Analysis: Acquisition of Supplementary Instrumentation for Optical Atomic Emission and X-ray Fluorescence." \$4,422.20. Funded.
- 2015 Samford University Faculty Development Grant (with Brian Gregory, Chemistry and Biochemistry): "Samford University-Student Training in Archaeological Research (SU-STAR)." \$4,000. Not funded.
- 2015 Samford University William E. and Wylodine H. Hull Fund for Christian Scholarship Grant: "Research Symposium: Galilean Archaeology: Theological Education, Science Education, and Tourism." \$14,000. Not funded.
- 2015 NEH Collaborative Research Grant: "Southern Refugees in the North: The Flight of Judeans to Galilee after the Fall of Jerusalem – Evidence from a Galilean Town." \$277,566/three years. Not funded.
- 2015 American Philosophical Society Franklin Research Grant: "War and Refugee Migration in the Middle East: Evidence from a Jewish Village in Roman Period Galilee." \$6,000. Not funded.
- 2015 International Catacomb Society Shohet Scholars Program Grant: "Southern Refugees in the North: Shikhin as a Test Case for Migration after 70." \$22,011. Not funded.
- 2014 NEH Collaborative Research Grant: "Economic Resistance vs. Military Insurgence: Archaeological Exploration of a Jewish Village in Roman Galilee." \$272,515/three years. Not funded.
- 2014 Samford University Innovative Technology Grant (with Jennifer Rahn, Geography): "Training Students in the Use of High-Accuracy (sub-foot resolution) Trimble Geo 7X Global Positioning System (GPS) Handheld Receiver." \$9,820. Funded. Raised an additional \$4,798 from Arts and Sciences for the purchase of a more sensitive piece of equipment (centimeter resolution).
- 2014 American Philosophical Society Franklin Research Grant: "Insurgency, Resistance, or Coexistence? Jewish Village Life in Roman Galilee 37 BCE to 363 CE." \$6,000. Not funded.

- 2014 International Catacomb Society Shohet Scholars Program Grant: "A Light Among the Gentiles: Pottery and Lamp Production at a Galilean Jewish Village." \$20,455. Not funded.
- 2013 NEH Collaborative Research Grant: "Economic Resistance vs. Military Insurgence: Archaeological Exploration of a Jewish Village in Roman Galilee." \$286,927.80/three years. Not funded.
- 2013 American Philosophical Society Franklin Research Grant: "Excavation and Preservation of Shikhin." \$6,000. Not funded.
- 2013 Samford University Faculty Development Grant: "Archaeology and the New Testament: Windows into Earliest Christianity." \$3,000. Funded.
- 2013 Samford University Innovative Technology Grant (with Jennifer Rahn, Geography): "Training Students in the Integration of GPS Technology and Surveying with Total Station Optical Instruments." \$3,568. Funded.
- 2011 Samford University Faculty Development Grant: "Economy as Identity in Roman Galilee: The Coins of Shikhin." \$2,000. Funded
- 2011 Samford University Innovative Technology Grant (with Tommy Tarvin, Physics): "Training Students in Remote Sensing Technologies in Archaeology." \$1,000. Funded.
- 2011 Samford University Faculty Development Grant: "Archaeological Survey of Shikhin, Israel." \$2,000. Funded.
- 2010 Samford University Faculty Development Grant: "GPS Survey of Shikhin, Israel." \$2,867. Not funded.
- 2010 NEH Summer Stipend Grant: "Archaeological Survey of the Ancient Site of Shikhin, Israel." \$3,000. Not funded.
- 2010 NEH Collaborative Research Grant: "Archaeological Survey of the Ancient Site of Shikhin, Israel." \$206,418/three years. Not funded.
- 2010 Archeological Institute of America Site Preservation Grant. "Archaeological Survey of the Ancient Site of Shikhin, Israel." \$25,000. Not funded.
- 2009 Alabama Humanities Foundation: "Academic Conference: The Future of American Archaeology in the Levant." \$7,592. Not funded.

Students Mentored

- 2018 Jewel Trail, ASPIRE Grant (with Brian Gregory, Chemistry and Biochemistry): "ICP Analysis of Pottery from a Roman Period Galilean Site"
- 2017 Johnny Herbert, ASPIRE Grant (with Brian Gregory, Chemistry and Biochemistry): "ICP Analysis of Pottery from a Roman Period Galilean Site"
- 2017 Jacob Landen, ASPIRE Grant (with Don Bradley, Sociology): "Judean Refugees and Lamp Production in Second Century Galilee"
- 2012 Rachel Smith, ASPIRE Grant: "The Date of a Tomb at Shikhin"
- 2011 Rachel Smith, SURP Grant: "The Location of the Tombs of Kefar Shikhin, Israel" (proposal accepted but unable to participate for health reasons)
- 2010 Aaron Carr, SURP Grant: "A Reconstruction of the Field V Basilica at Sepphoris, Israel"

Membership in Learned Societies

ASOR (American Schools of Oriental Research)

IES (Israel Exploration Society)
SBL (Society of Biblical Literature)

Revised: 17 October 2019