## **Foreword**

The essays included in this volume are an integral part and representative of a larger project on Social Memory in/and of Ancient Israel, mainly in the late Persian/early Hellenistic period. This project has been supported by grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. I am most thankful to the Council.

Some of the ideas and the correlated essays emerged out of papers given at and in conversations held in workshops, including those co-organized by Faculties of Catholic Theology and Protestant Theology at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) Munich on the one hand and the Dept. of History and Classics at the University of Alberta on the other. Again, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada supported some of these workshops and the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung others.

Most of the other essays emerged out of a papers and conversations at EABS, SBL, IOSOT and CSBS meetings in the last ten years. I wish to express my gratitude to all the organizers of these sessions and to the scholars who work tirelessly to make these meetings possible, and whose contribution is rarely acknowledged. I would like to stress my debt of gratitude to all the colleagues who participated in these sessions. I learned much from the all. Needless to say, especial thanks also to those who co-edited volumes with me, on this or related subjects, and to those who invited me to the volumes and conferences they organized. Working with all of them and thinking with them has benefited my work, and needless to say, enriched myself personally, time and again.

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